

THEY

COME FROM

ANOTHER

WORLD!

INVASION OF THE DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR

**INCORRIGIBLE!
INDEFATIGABLE!
INEVITABLE!**

Alison Bechdel



DRAWN IN
COMICSSCOPE



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Invasion of the Dykes to Watch Out For

Also by Alison Bechdel

• DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR
MORE DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR
NEW, IMPROVED DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR
DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR: THE SEQUEL
SPAWN OF DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR
UNNATURAL DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR
HOT, THROBBING DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR
SPLIT-LEVEL DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR
• THE INDELIBLE ALISON BECHDEL
POST-DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR
DYKES AND SUNDRY OTHER CARBON-BASED LIFE-FORMS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Invasion of the Dykes to Watch Out For

by

Alison Bechdel

 **alyson books**
NEW YORK

Celebrating Twenty-Five Years

ALL CHARACTERS IN THIS BOOK ARE FICTITIOUS. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO REAL INDIVIDUALS—EITHER LIVING OR DEAD—IS STRICTLY COINCIDENTAL.

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1. COMIC BOOKS, STRIPS, ETC. I. TITLE.

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...WHERE WERE WE?

© WHEN THE
LAST
INSTALLMENT
OF OUR SAGA
ENDED,
FREEDOM
WAS ON THE
MARCH...
OR THE FRITZ...
OR THE RUN.

DEPENDING
ON YOUR
PERSPECTIVE.

yew'll be sorry that yew messed
with the US of A! Cuz we'll put a
boot in your
ass! It's the
American
way!

SORRY. I WAS
LISTENING TO THE
COUNTRY STATION.



AS THE BUSH EMPIRE PREPARES TO PUT ITS HAND-TOOLED BOOT IN THE ASS OF EVERYONE ON THE PLANET, OUR CHARACTERS STILL HAVE RENT TO PAY.

SALES ARE WAY DOWN. THE CAFÉ NEVER TOOK OFF. WE CAN'T COMPETE WITH BUNNS AND NOODLE...



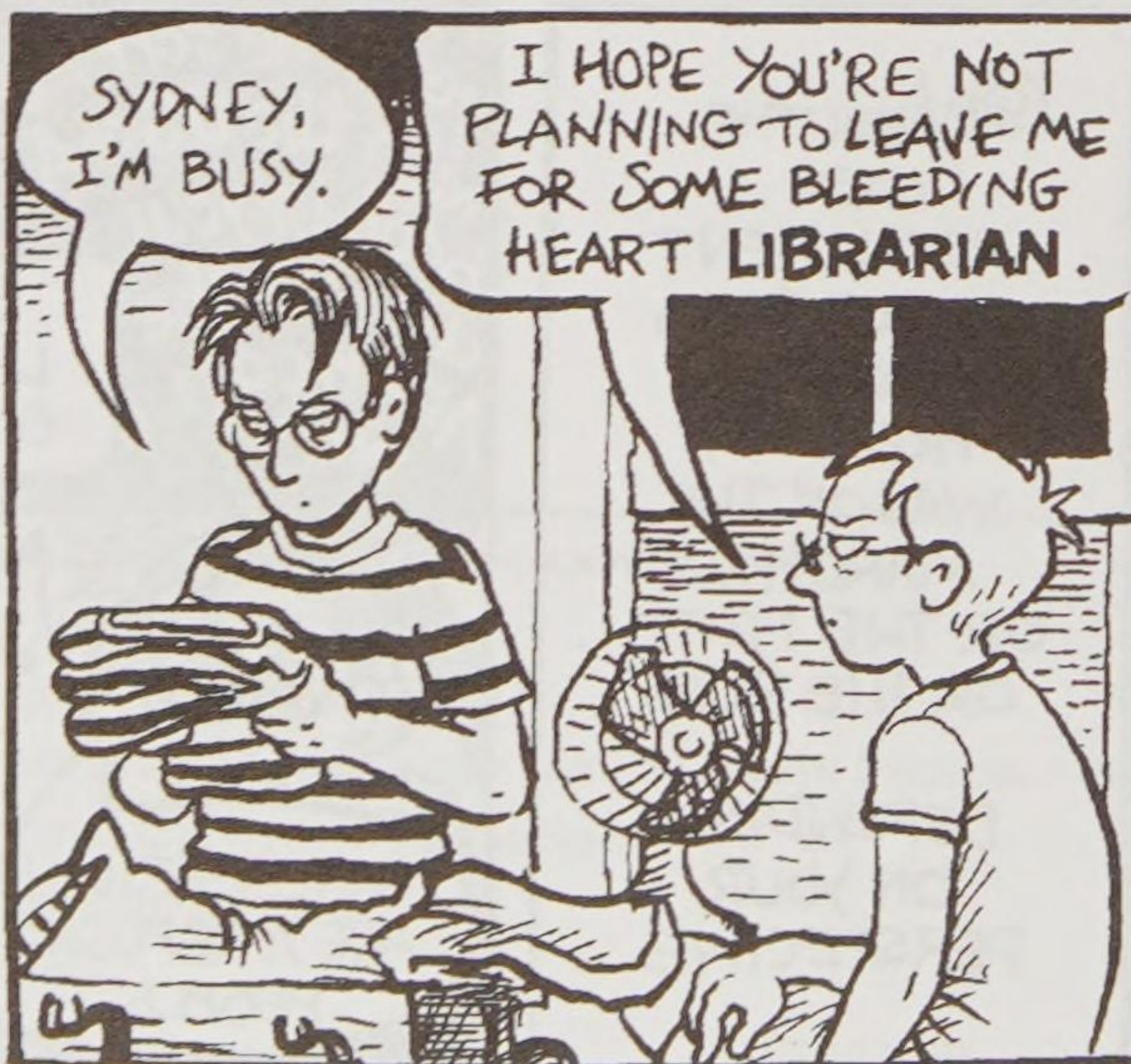
JEZANNA DELIVERS SOME SOBERING NEWS TO BOOKSTORE EMPLOYEES **MO, LOIS, AND THEA.**



Mo DECIDES TO GO TO LIBRARY SCHOOL, BUT IT'S PUTTING A STRAIN ON THE TENDER BOND WITH HER GIRLFRIEND **SYDNEY.**

SYDNEY, I'M BUSY.

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO LEAVE ME FOR SOME BLEEDING HEART **LIBRARIAN.**



INDEED, THERE IS A FLEETING FLIRTATION WITH **FIONA** THE FACT-CHECKING PHENOM.

EXCUSE ME. I, UH... JUST HAVE TO TELL YOU, I FOUND YOUR POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ON PRESERVING PATRON PRIVACY UNDER THE **PATRIOT ACT** PROVOCATIVE AND PENETRATING.



BUT SYDNEY'S TOO CONSUMED WITH HER OWN PRIMARY RELATIONSHIP TO CARE MUCH.



THE MOTLEY MÉNAGE OF STUART, SPARROW, LOIS, AND GINGER HAS GROWN EVEN MORE MULTI-FARIOUS OF LATE.



GINGER HAD A BRIEF FLING WITH JASMINE... BUT COULDN'T MUSTER THE COMMITMENT TO TAKE ON HER TEN-YEAR-OLD, JONAS, TOO.



PART-TIME DRAG KING LOIS FINDS HERSELF MORE THAN UP TO THE TASK, HOWEVER.

ARE YOU PURSUING JASMINE JUST TO TORTURE ME? LAST I HEARD YOU WERE INTO BUTCH DADDIES AND TRANS MEN. SHE'S NOT YOUR TYPE AT ALL.

I HAVE VERY CATHOLIC TASTES. AND BESIDES, JONAS NEEDS A GENDERQUEER ROLE MODEL.





AND SPEAKING OF TUBES, SPARROW FINDS HERSELF IN AN INTERESTING CONDITION.



AFTER A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PEER PRESSURE, SHE DECIDES TO GO THROUGH WITH IT.

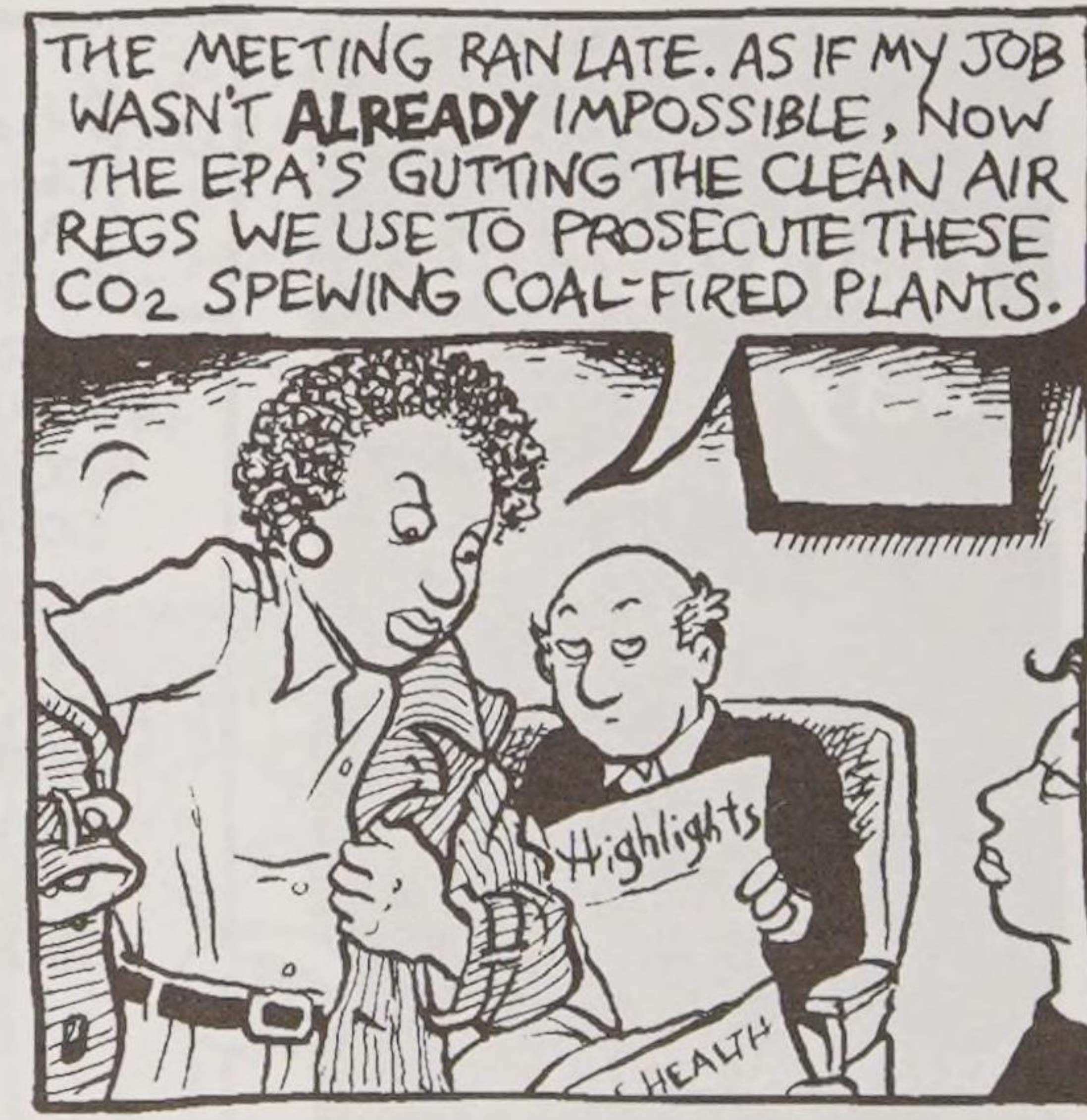


MEANWHILE, OUR LONG-ESTABLISHED PARENTS CLARICE AND TONI STRIVE TO IMPART PROGRESSIVE VALUES TO THEIR SON, RAFFI.





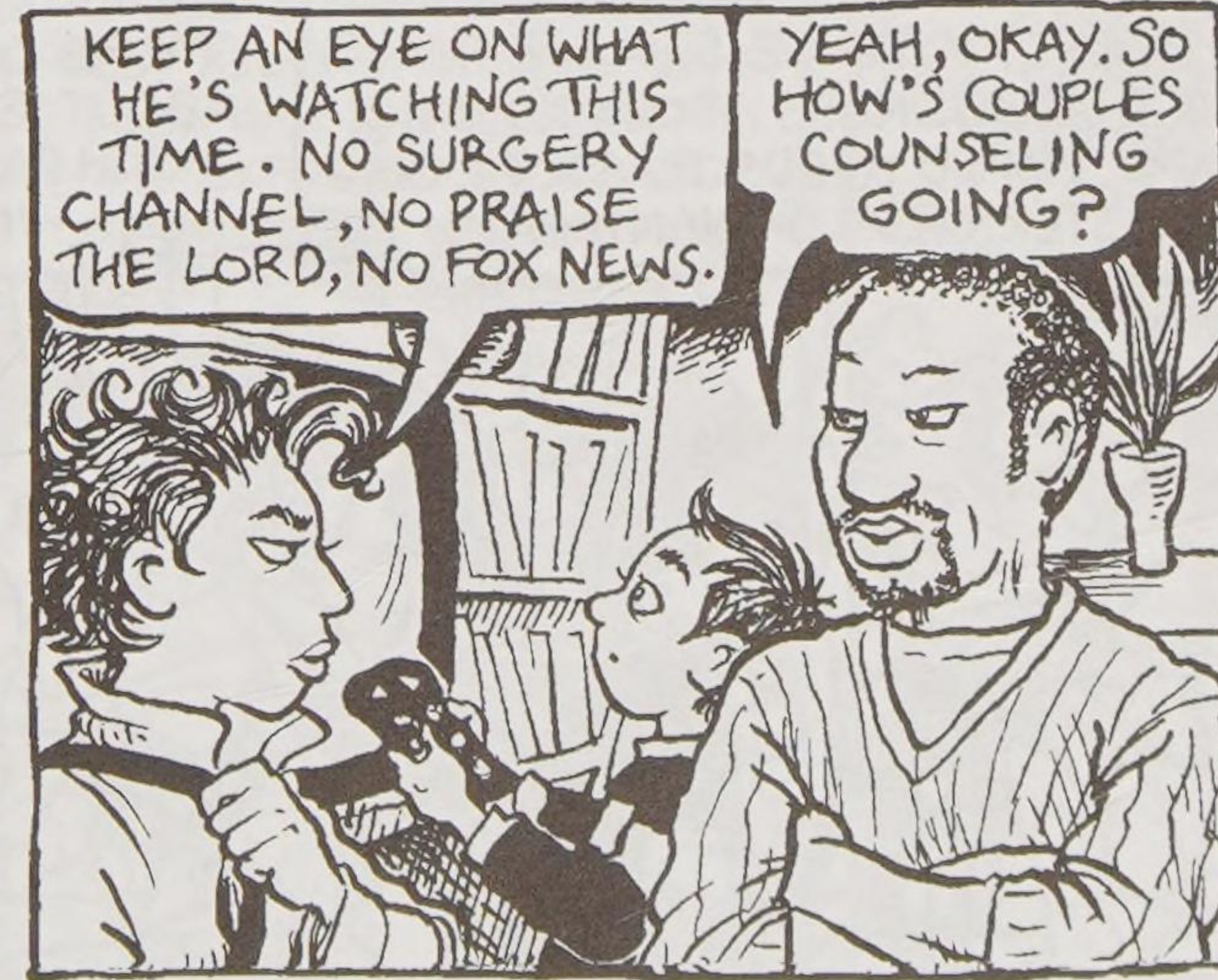
©CLARICE WENT INTO A TAILSPIN AFTER THE 2000 ELECTION, BUT ANTI-DEPRESSANTS HAVE KEPT HER FUNCTIONAL ON THE JOB...



.. IF LESS FUNCTIONAL ELSEWHERE.



CARLOS BABY-SITS WHILE THEY SEEK HELP.



©Will OUR FRIENDS SUCCUMB TO IMPOTENCE?
©Will THEY ENDURE "ENDURING FREEDOM"?
©Will A TOXIC FUSION OF FEAR AND CORPORATE INFLUENCE SO ERODE OUR FRAGILE DEMOCRACY THAT WE ALL SINK, CLUTCHING OUR FLAT-SCREEN TVs, INTO THE QUICKSAND OF **DESPOTISM**?
©TURN TH'PAGE AND LET'S SEE!

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11/5

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HUMIDITY HAS CAST A PALL ON THE POOL PARTY.

I FELT FINE THROUGH MY FIFTH MONTH, TOO. IT WAS THE LAST FOUR THAT MADE ME WANT TO DIE.

BUT BEING CRITICAL OF ISRAEL DOESN'T MEAN I'M ANTI-SEMITIC.

FETIDOS

OKAY. MAYBE SWINE'S KIND OF A STRONG WORD.

FOUR BMW'S? THE MAN'S A PIG.

JASMINE, AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT JONAS RUNNING AROUND IN THAT TUBETOP LOIS GAVE HIM? EVENTUALLY HE'LL GET TEASED, OR WORSE.

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JASMINE, AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT JONAS RUNNING AROUND IN THAT TUBETOP LOIS GAVE HIM? EVENTUALLY HE'LL GET TEASED, OR WORSE.

I WORRY ALL THE TIME. BUT LOOK HOW HAPPY HE IS. WHY KEEP HIM COMPLETELY SAFE IF IT MAKES HIM MISERABLE?

...NO, THEY DO C-SECTIONS HORIZONTALLY, SEE? HOPEFULLY YOU WON'T NEED ONE. I'LL ALWAYS FEEL BAD I DIDN'T GET TO GO THROUGH THE EXPERIENCE OF LABOR.



I WORRY ALL THE TIME. BUT LOOK HOW HAPPY HE IS. WHY KEEP HIM COMPLETELY SAFE IF IT MAKES HIM MISERABLE?

...NO, THEY DO C-SECTIONS HORIZONTALLY, SEE? HOPEFULLY YOU WON'T NEED ONE. I'LL ALWAYS FEEL BAD I DIDN'T GET TO GO THROUGH THE EXPERIENCE OF LABOR.

DAYCARE FOR TRANSGENDER TODDLERS. I LIKE IT.

ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO KICK THIS LABOR DAY BASH UP A NOTCH? SPARKLERS? "THE INTERNATIONALE" DANCE MIX?

DAYCARE FOR TRANSGENDER TODDLERS. I LIKE IT.

ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO KICK THIS LABOR DAY BASH UP A NOTCH? SPARKLERS? "THE INTERNATIONALE" DANCE MIX?

Intro to Lewer Theory

9/25

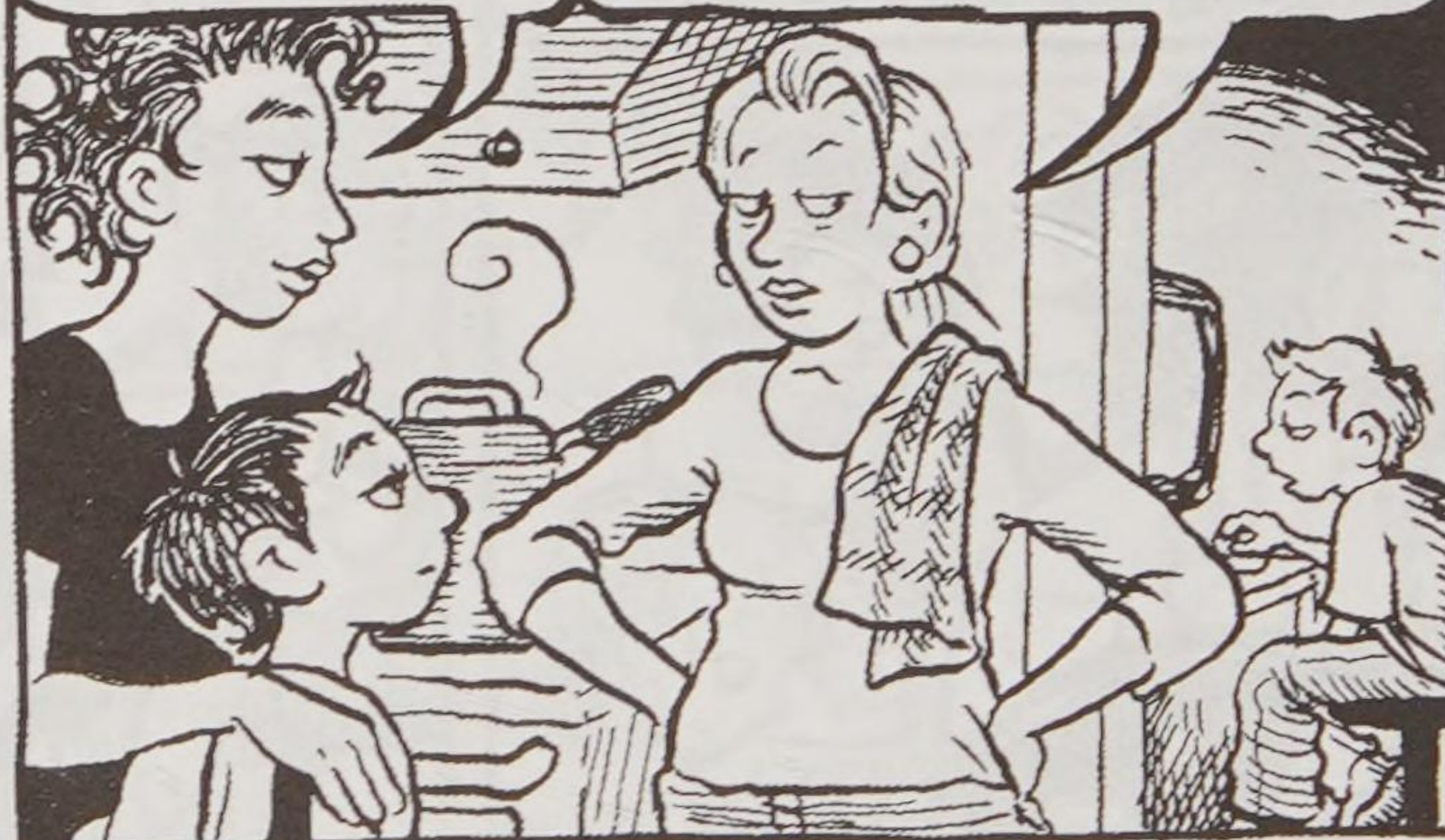
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THE
ARC
OF
HISTORY
IS
LONG...

THANKS, ANNE!
SORRY I WAS A
LITTLE LATE. I
HOPE HE WASN'T
ANY TROUBLE.

I WISH THE TWO OF THEM
WOULD GIVE ME SOME
TROUBLE. THEY JUST SIT IN
FRONT OF THE COMPUTER
LIKE... LIKE **LARVAE**.



SO HOW
WAS YOUR FIRST
DAY OF FOURTH
GRADE?



WE'RE GOING TO KEEP JOURNALS
AND WE HAVE TO WRITE CURSIVE
IN THEM AND WE HAVE COMPUTER
LAB EVERY DAY AND AT RECESS A
NEW KID TAUGHT US THIS REALLY
EXCELLENT GAME.

YEAH?



IT'S CALLED
"SMEAR THE
QUEER."

WHAT?



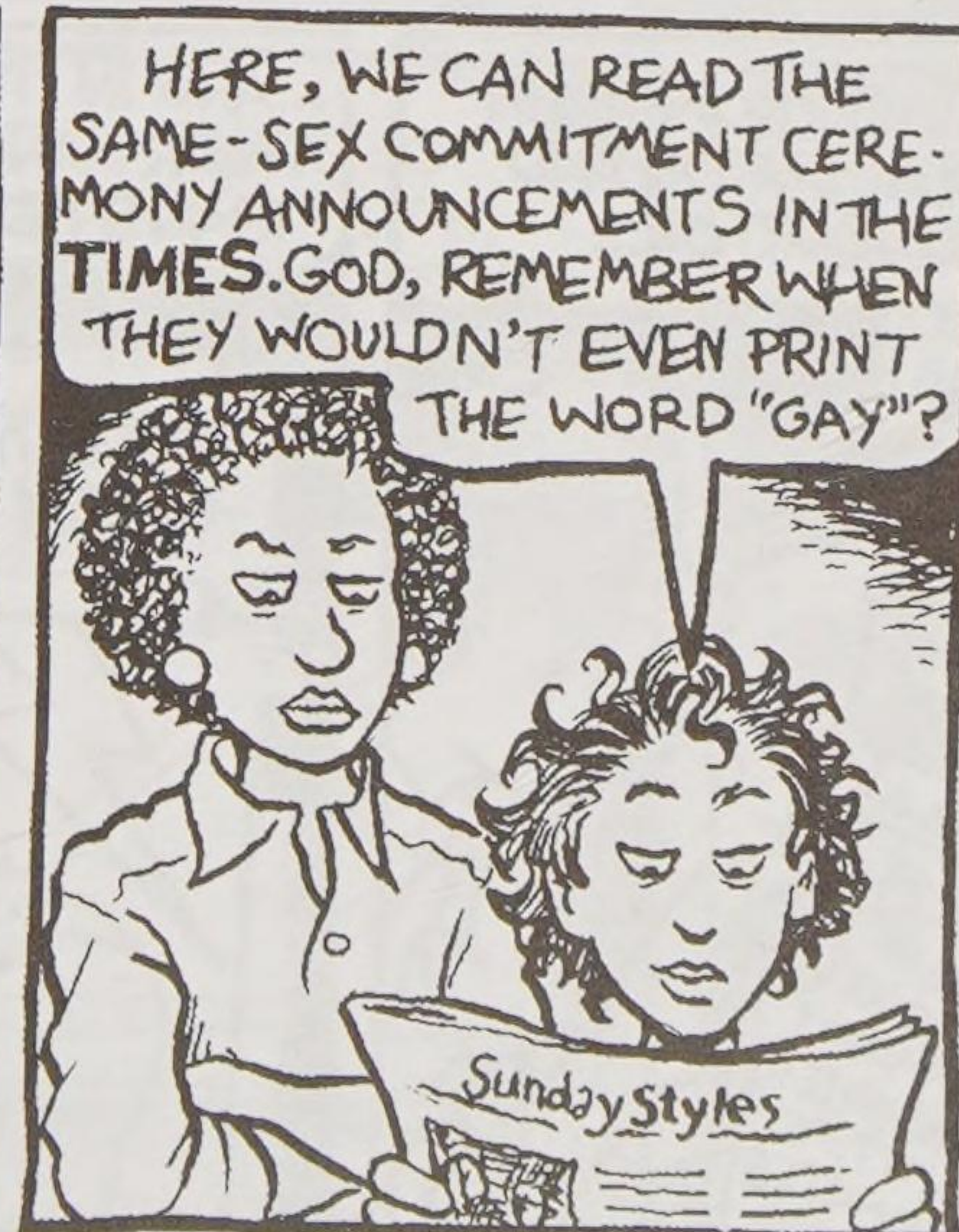
YOU THROW THE BALL IN
THE AIR AND WHOEVER
CATCHES IT RUNS AROUND
AND WE ALL TRY TO KNOCK
HIM DOWN AND PILE ONTO
HIM. SEE MY SCRAPE?

RAFFI! DID YOUR
TEACHER KNOW THIS WAS
GOING ON? DID SHE SEE
THE OTHER KIDS KNOCK-
ING YOU DOWN?!



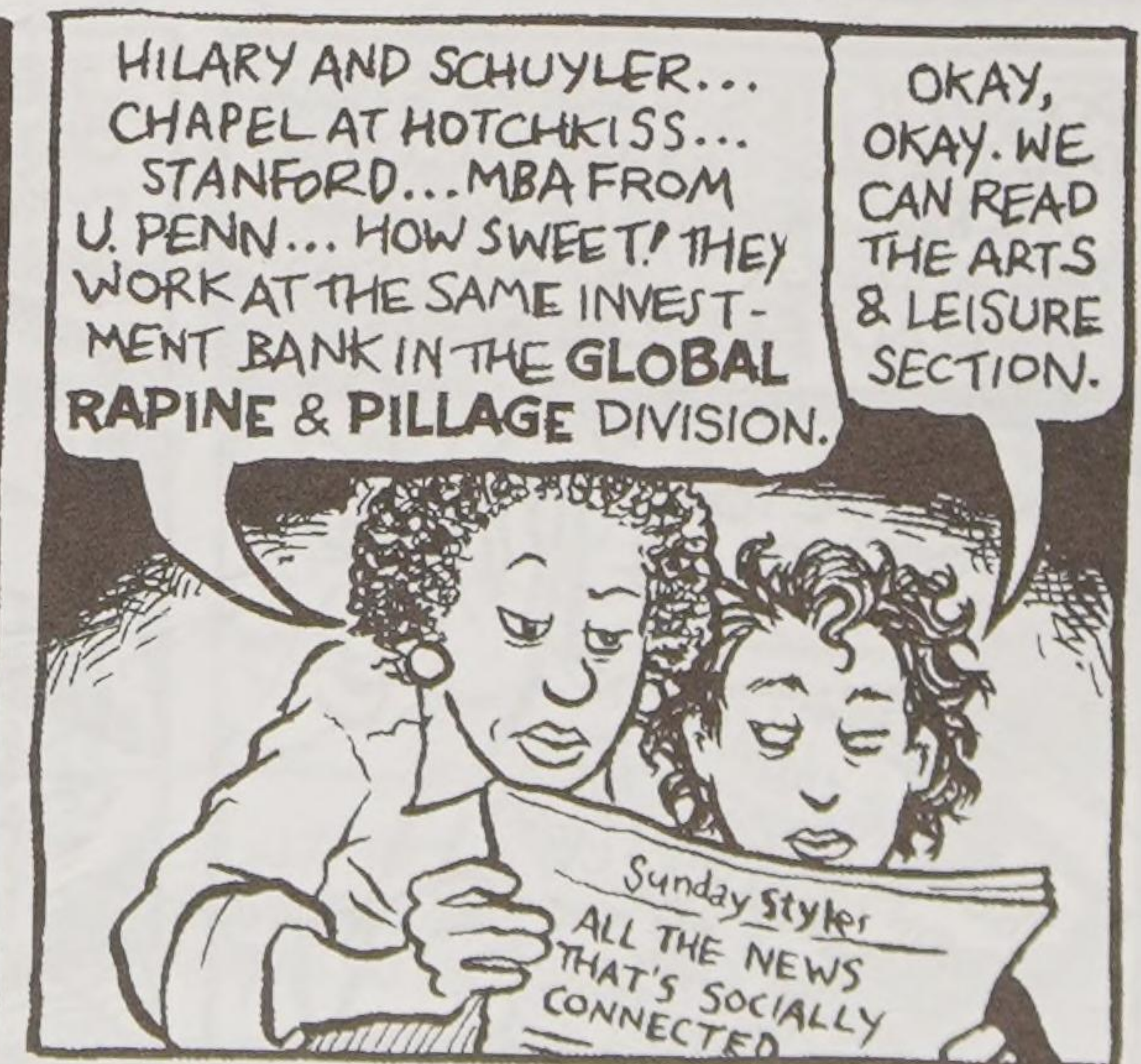


...BUT IT BENDS TOWARD JUSTICE.



SORT OF.

(APOLOGIES TO DR. KING)



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information

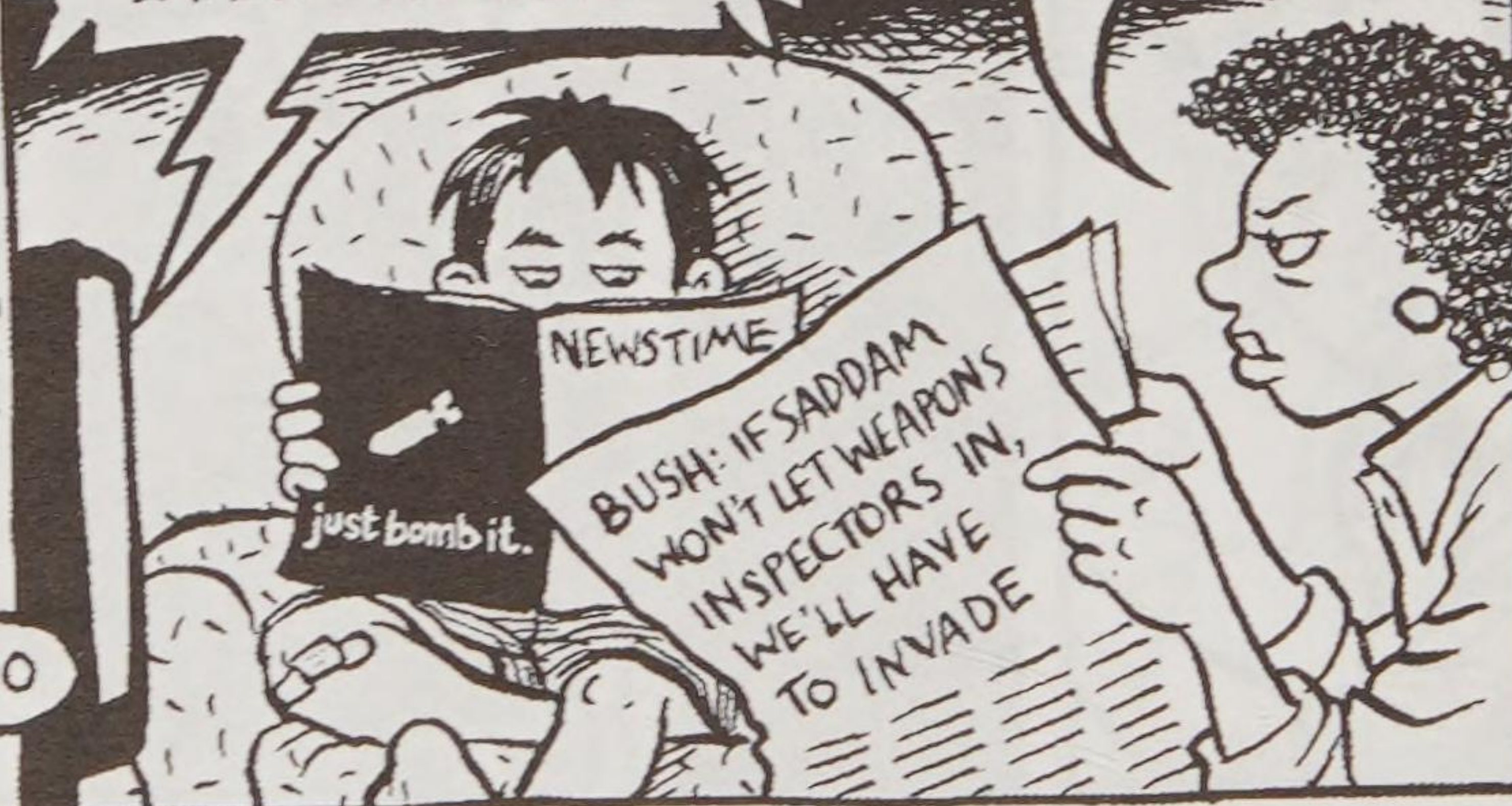
10/9

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TONIGHT ON THE LATE SHOW, BRUCE WILLIS AND DONALD RUMSFELD TALK WITH DAVE ABOUT THEIR LATEST PROJECTS.

GOD!
GOEBBELS HIMSELF
COULDN'T OUT-MARKET
THESE GUYS.



ARE PEOPLE REALLY FALLING FOR THIS P.R. BLITZ? CAN'T EVERYONE SEE THAT INVADING IRAQ IS JUST A BIG DIVERSION?

IS YOUR HOME SAFE? PROTECT IT FROM DIRT, ANTHRAX, AND NUKULAR WEAPONS WITH OUR NEW, IMPROVED **PRE-EMPTIVE WIPE!**



DOESN'T IT STICK IN ANYONE'S CRAW THAT THE BUSHITES ARE EXPLOITING THE REAL HORROR OF 9/11, AND THREATENING TO UNLEASH DISASTER ON A **BIBLICAL SCALE...**

NEXT TIME YOU CALL COLLECT, DIAL 1-800-**DIE-IRAQ!**



...JUST TO DISTRACT US FROM THEIR OILY SHENANIGANS AT ENRON AND HARKIN AND HALLIBURTON...



...AND IN THE BARGAIN, MAYBE GET THEIR HANDS ON **MORE** OIL WITH IRAQ'S PETROLEUM RESERVES?!

MOM, BE QUIET. THIS IS A GOOD ONE.

DUDE, YOU'RE GETTIN' A WAR!



MEAN-
WHILE,
GINGER
GRAPPLES
WITH THE
SEPARATION
OF
CHURCH
AND
BUFFALO
LAKE STATE.

MS. JORDAN, I JUST WANT TO
OBJECT TO OUR ASSIGNMENT FOR
THURSDAY. IT'S LIKE, AGAINST THE
CONSTITUTION FOR YOU TO MAKE
US READ THE KORAN.

IT IS?

YEAH. CAUSE YOU'RE
LIKE, FORCING RELIGION
ON US. SO I REFUSE TO
READ IT. NO WAY.

PARTY
ON, BRO.
ME TOO.

FINE. YOU CAN EITHER TAKE
A QUIZ ON THE READING,
OR GIVE ME A THREE PAGE
ESSAY EXPLAINING WHY YOU
DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT.

ME TOO.

WORLD LIT
SURVEY
syllabus

THAT IS SO
VIOLATING OUR FIRST
AMENDMENT RIGHTS.

YEAH.

YEAH.

THIS JOB IS SO
VIOLATING MY LIFE,
LIBERTY, AND PURSUIT
OF HAPPINESS.

BRAND IT AND THEY WILL
COME! WHAT EVER HAP-
PENED TO RATIONALITY?
TO COMMON SENSE? TO
HUMAN **DECENCY**?

SWEETIE, KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN.
WE DON'T WANT THE NEIGHBORS
REPORTING US AS A TERROR CELL.

...SIDE EFFECTS ARE MILD AND INCLUDE
INSOMNIA, LOW OIL PRESSURE, AND
INCREASED RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS...

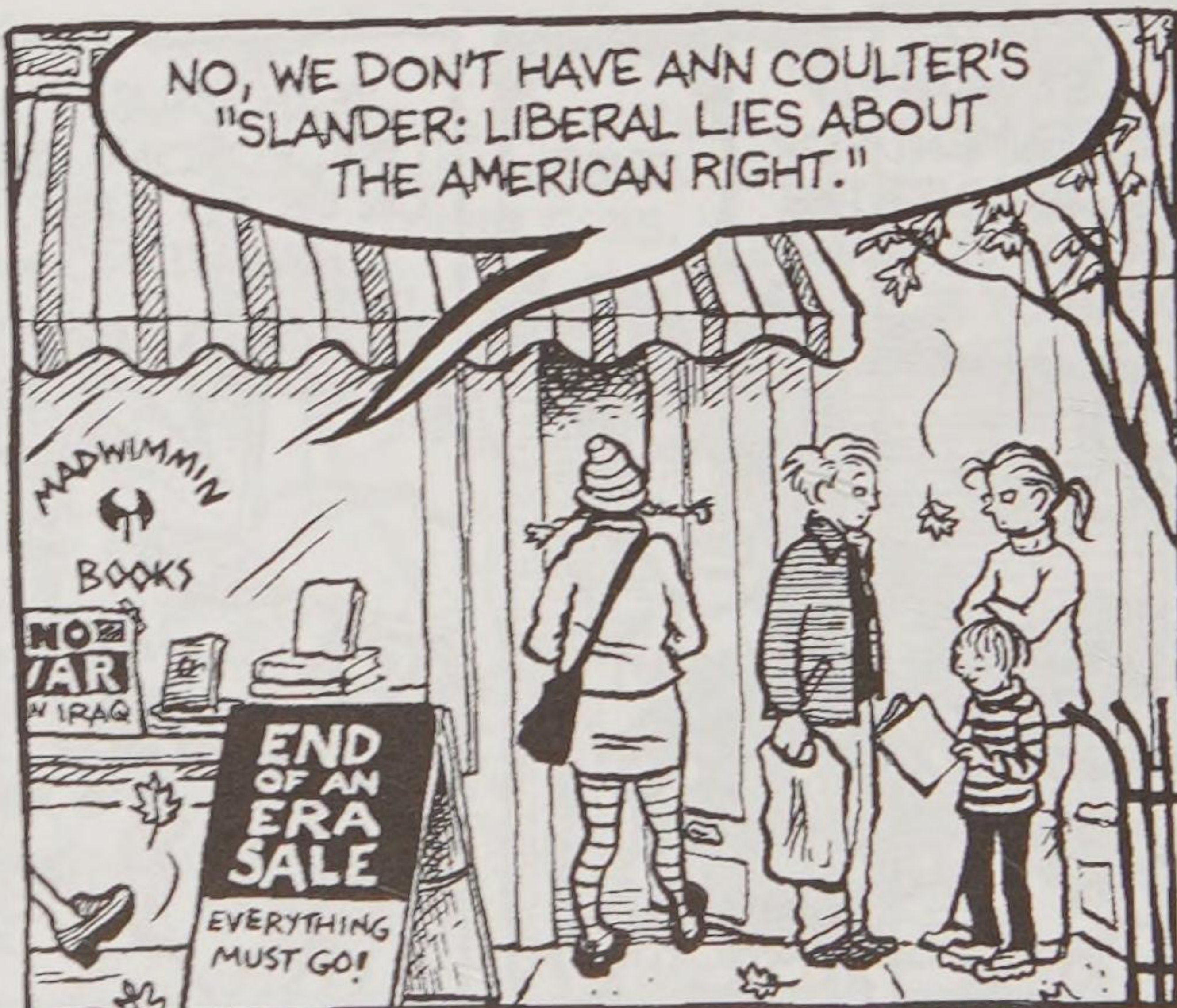
decline & fall

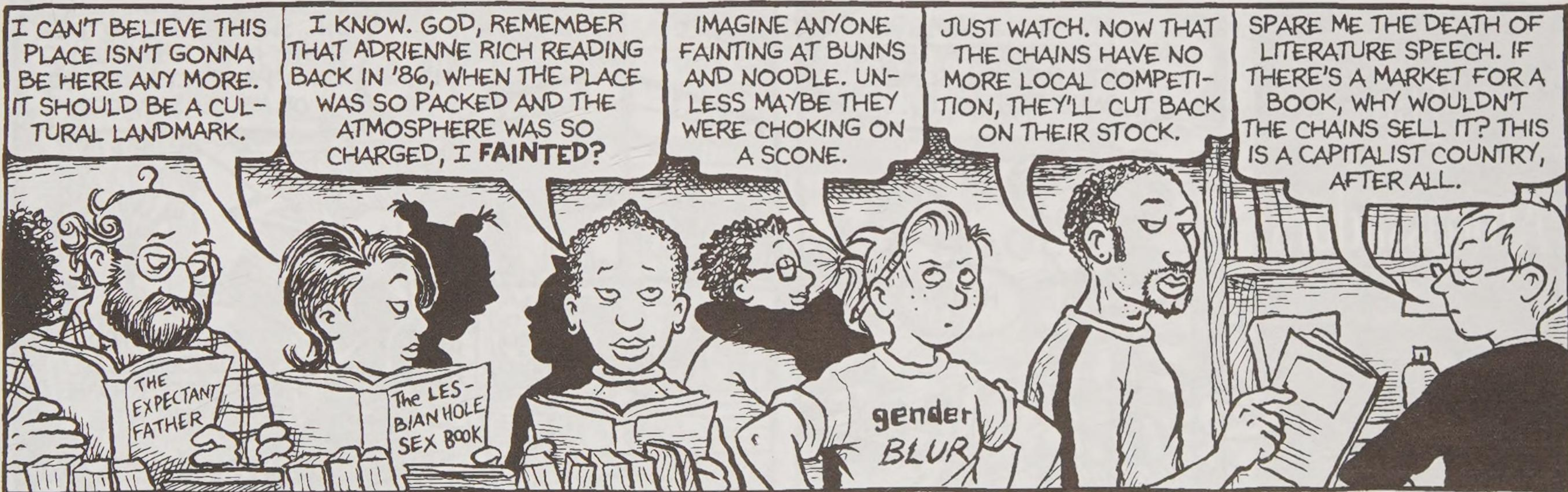
10/23

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AH,
AUTUMN...
DEGENERATION,
DECAY,
NATURE'S EBB,
WHEN THE
FOLIAGE, LIKE
THE HOMELAND
SECURITY
THREAT
LEVEL,
RIPENS FROM
YELLOW
TO
ORANGE.

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The Ambassadors

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11/6

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...MY MIDDLE NAME?
UM, CONSTANCE. AFTER MY
AUNT. HANG ON, SOME-
ONE'S BEEPING IN.

HELLO?

HI, IT'S
ME.

UH... SWEETIE, I CAN'T TALK
RIGHT NOW, I'M WORKING
ON A PROJECT WITH ONE
OF MY CLASSMATES.

I JUST WANTED
TO TELL YOU I'LL BE
HOME LATE. I HAVE
THAT THING AT 6.

OH, RIGHT! YOUR FIRST
MAMMO! DON'T WORRY, IT'S
NO BIG DEAL. THEY JUST
CLAMP YOUR TITS IN A VISE
FOR A COUPLE SECONDS.

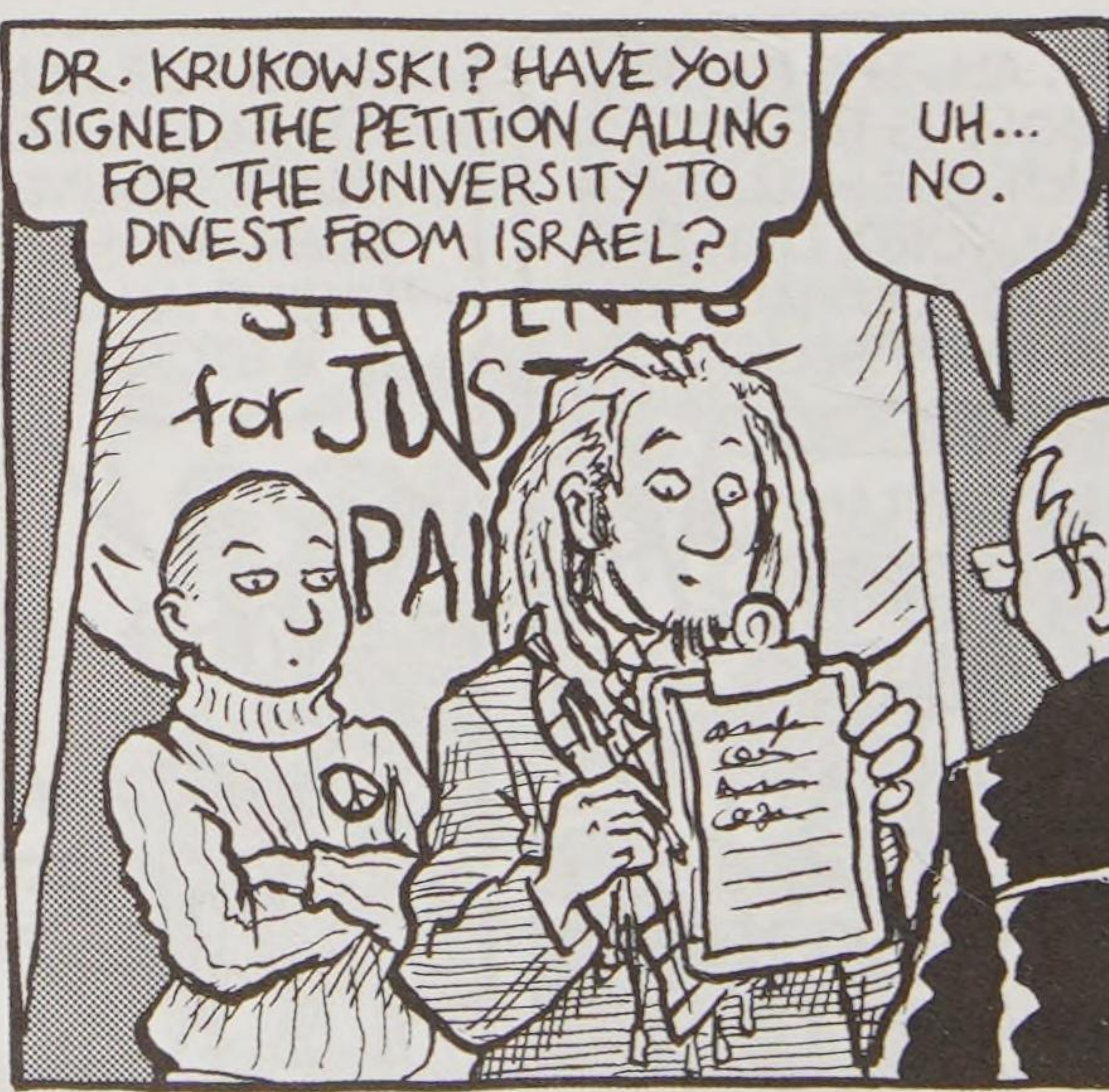
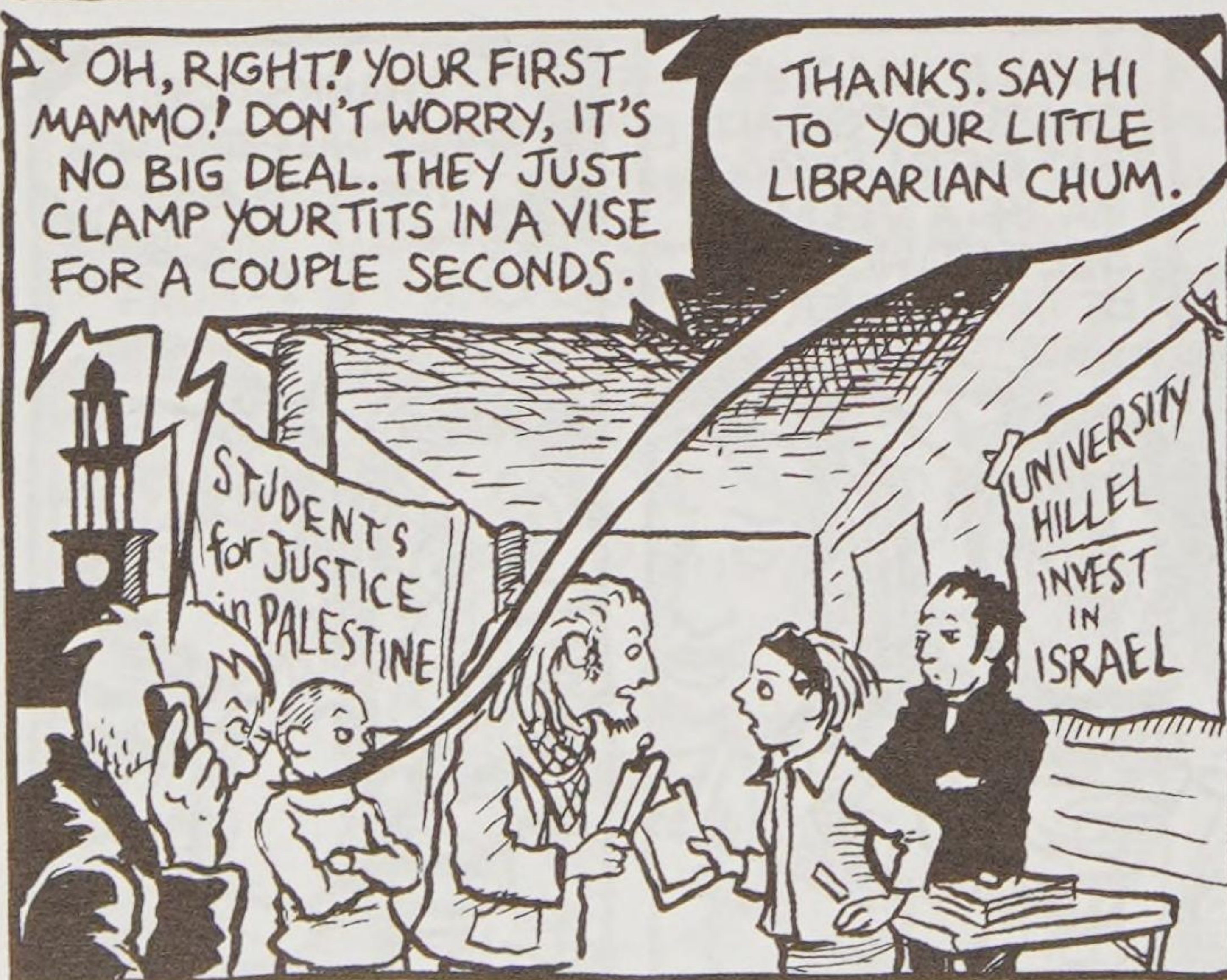
THANKS. SAY HI
TO YOUR LITTLE
LIBRARIAN CHUM.

DR. KRUKOWSKI? HAVE YOU
SIGNED THE PETITION CALLING
FOR THE UNIVERSITY TO
DINVEST FROM ISRAEL?

UH...
NO.

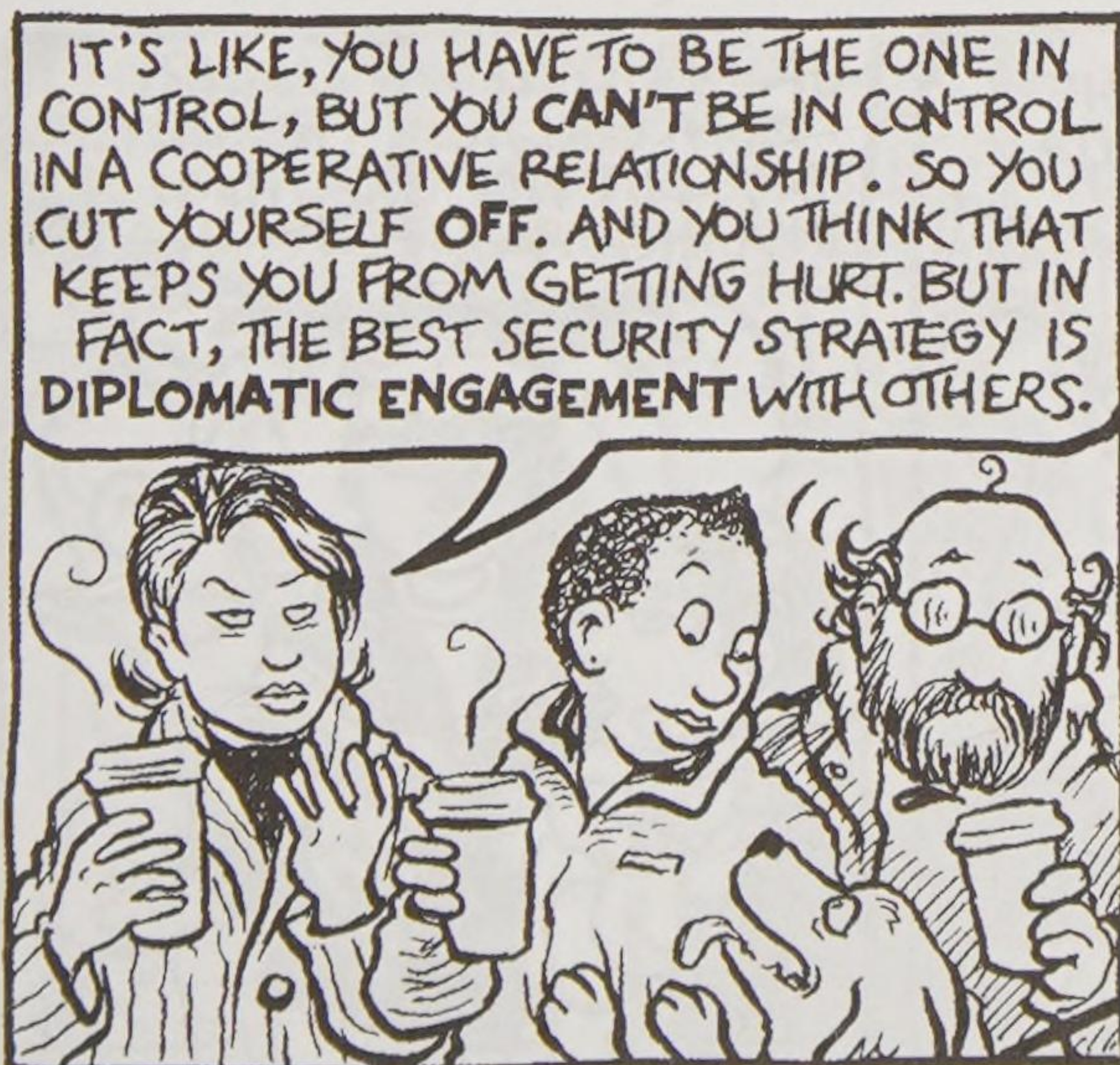
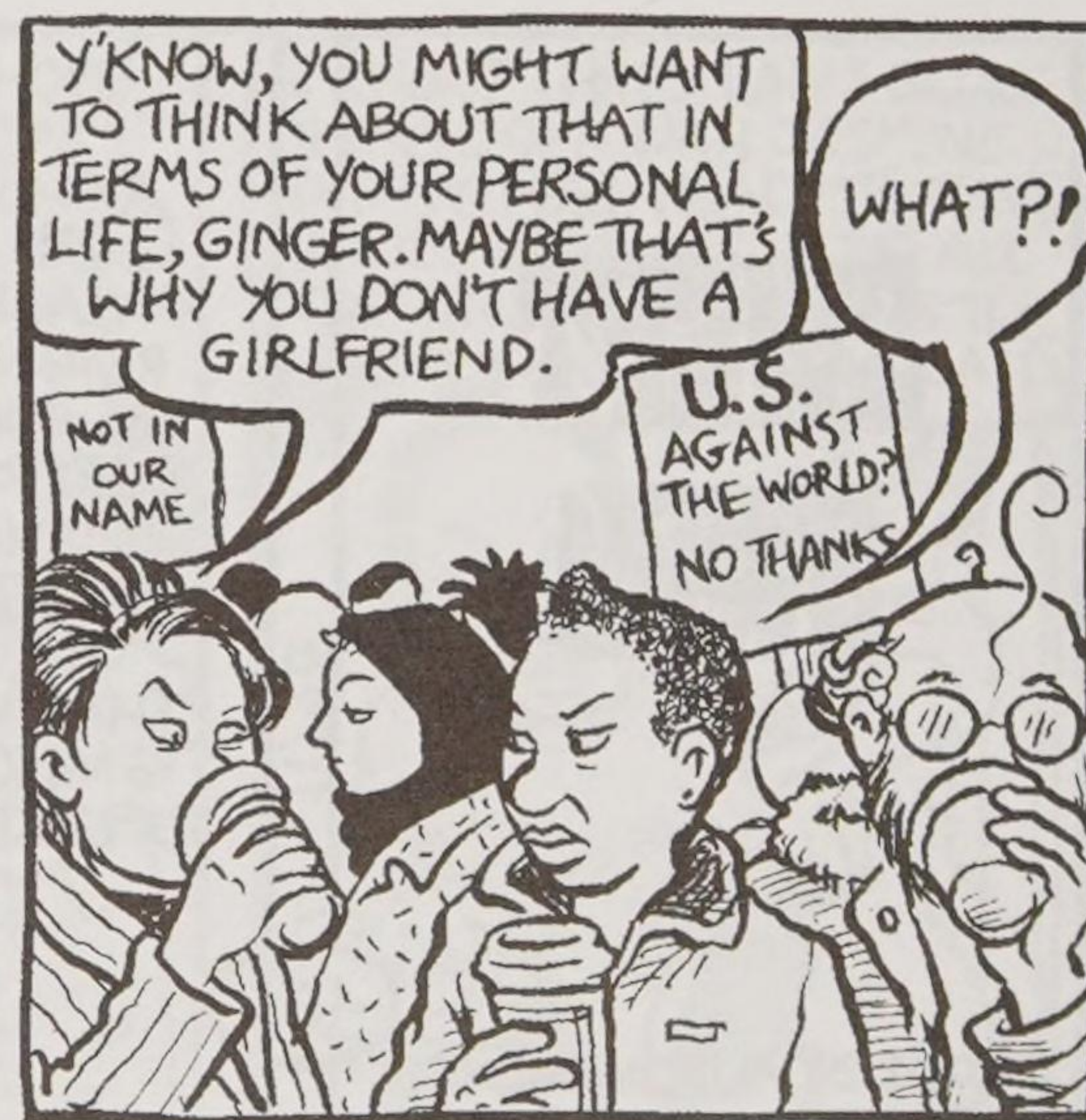
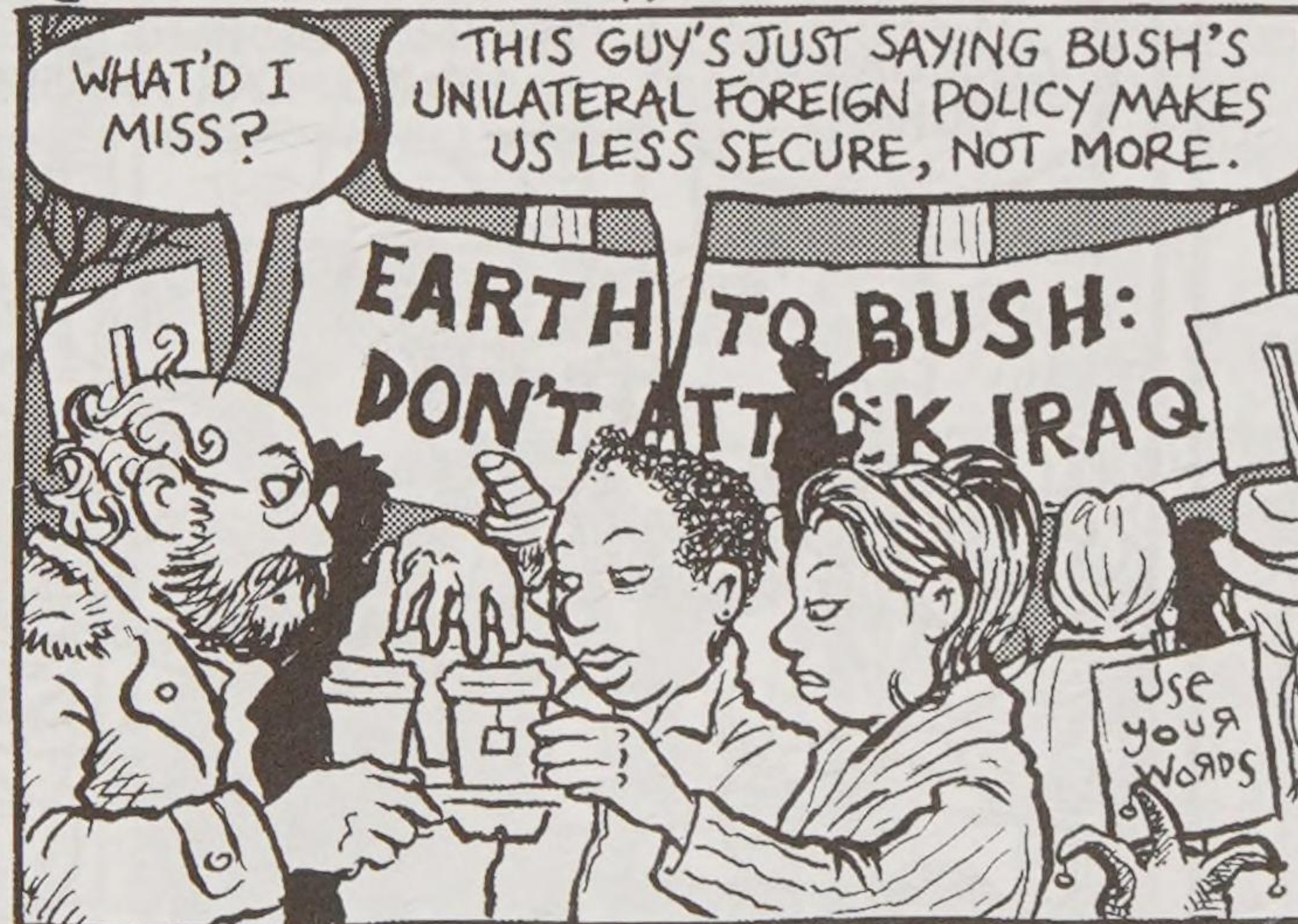
DR. K! HERE!
SIGN OUR
PETITION **NOT**
TO DIVEST.

SORRY.
I FIND
PETITIONS
TRITE.





LATER THAT SAME DAY, DOWNTOWN...



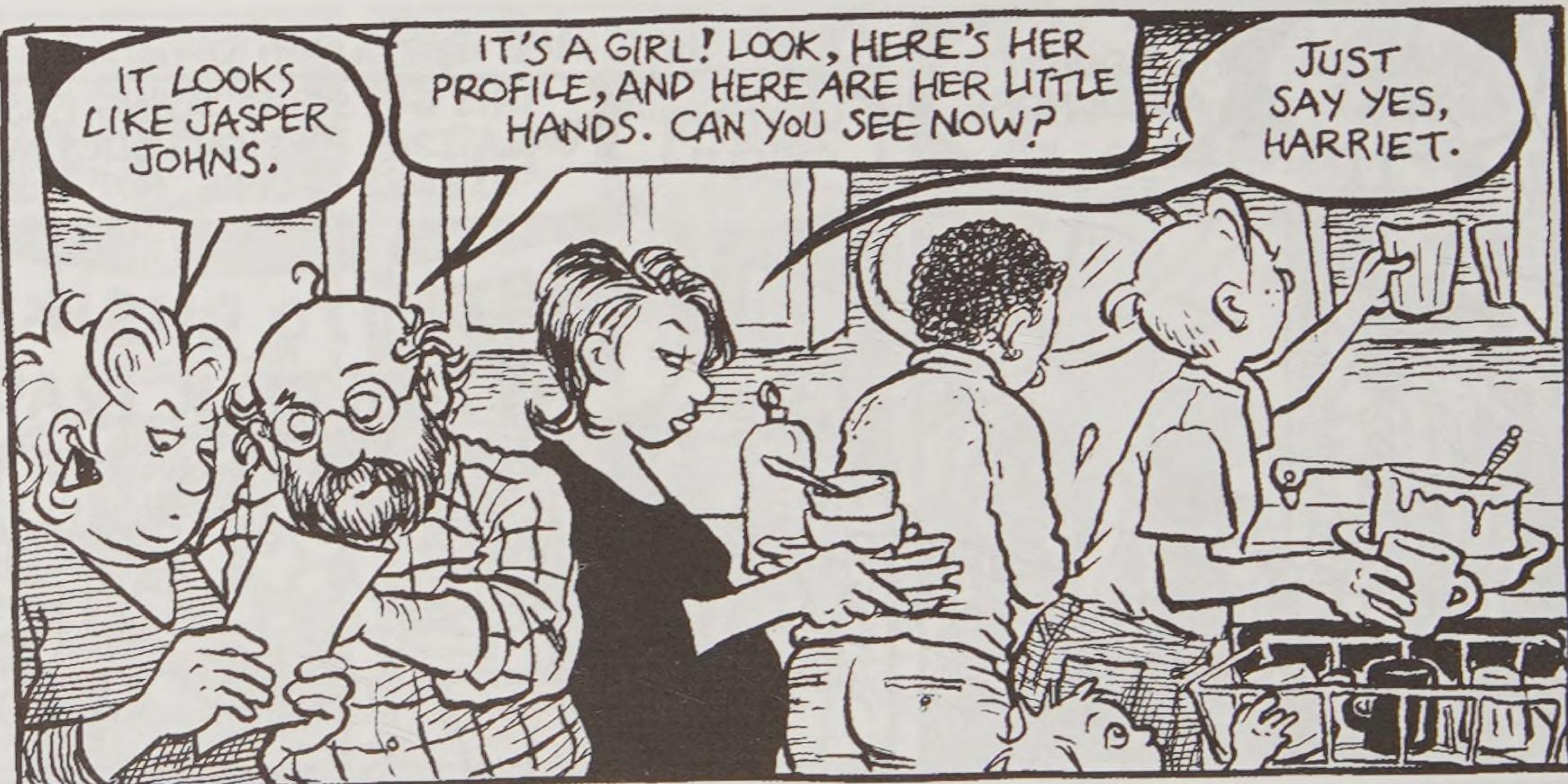
SWEET AWAY

11/20

CON-
VIVIALITY
REIGNS
AS OUR
EUPEPTIC
FRIENDS
DIGEST
THE
THANKS-
GIVING
TOFURKEY.

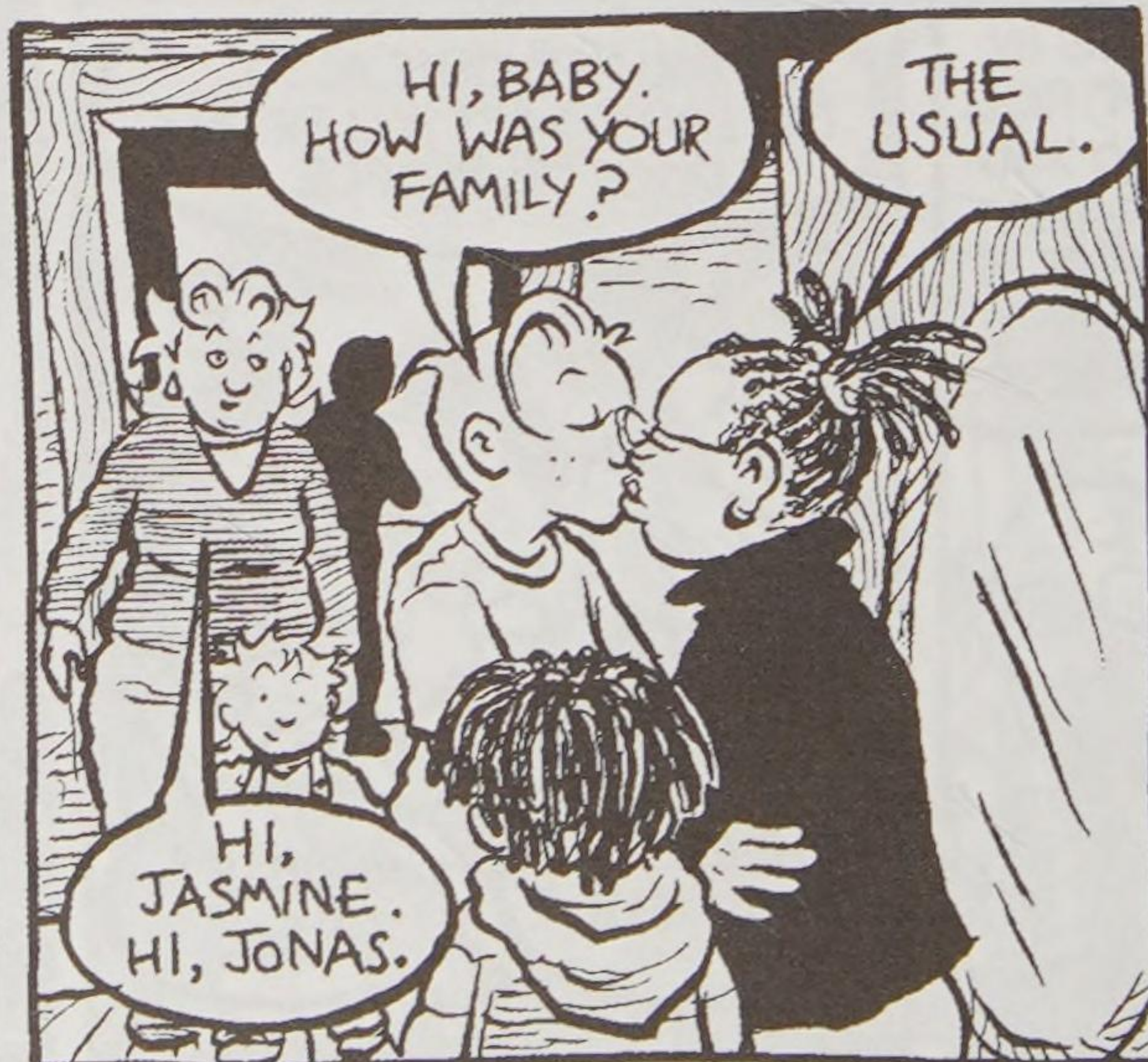
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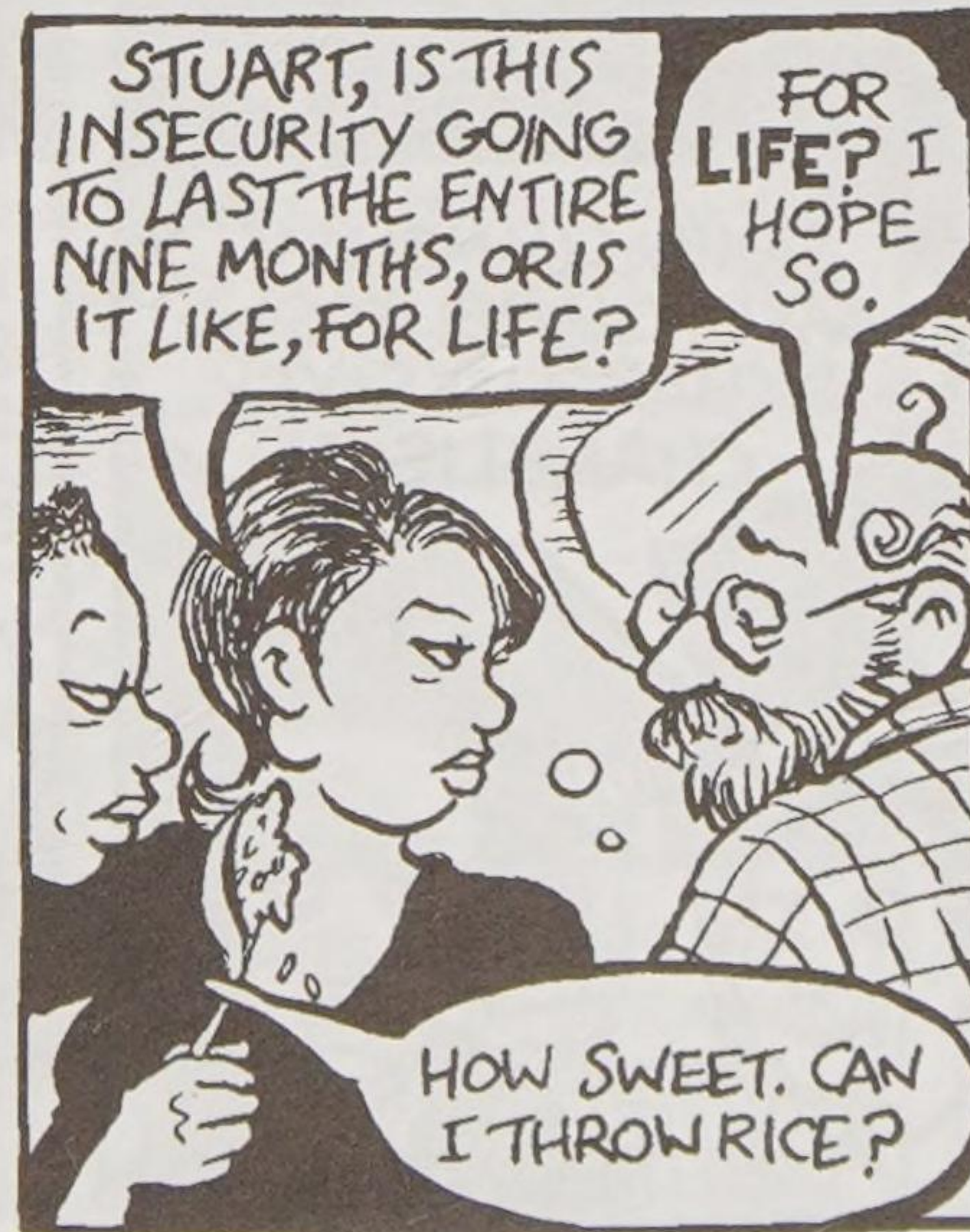
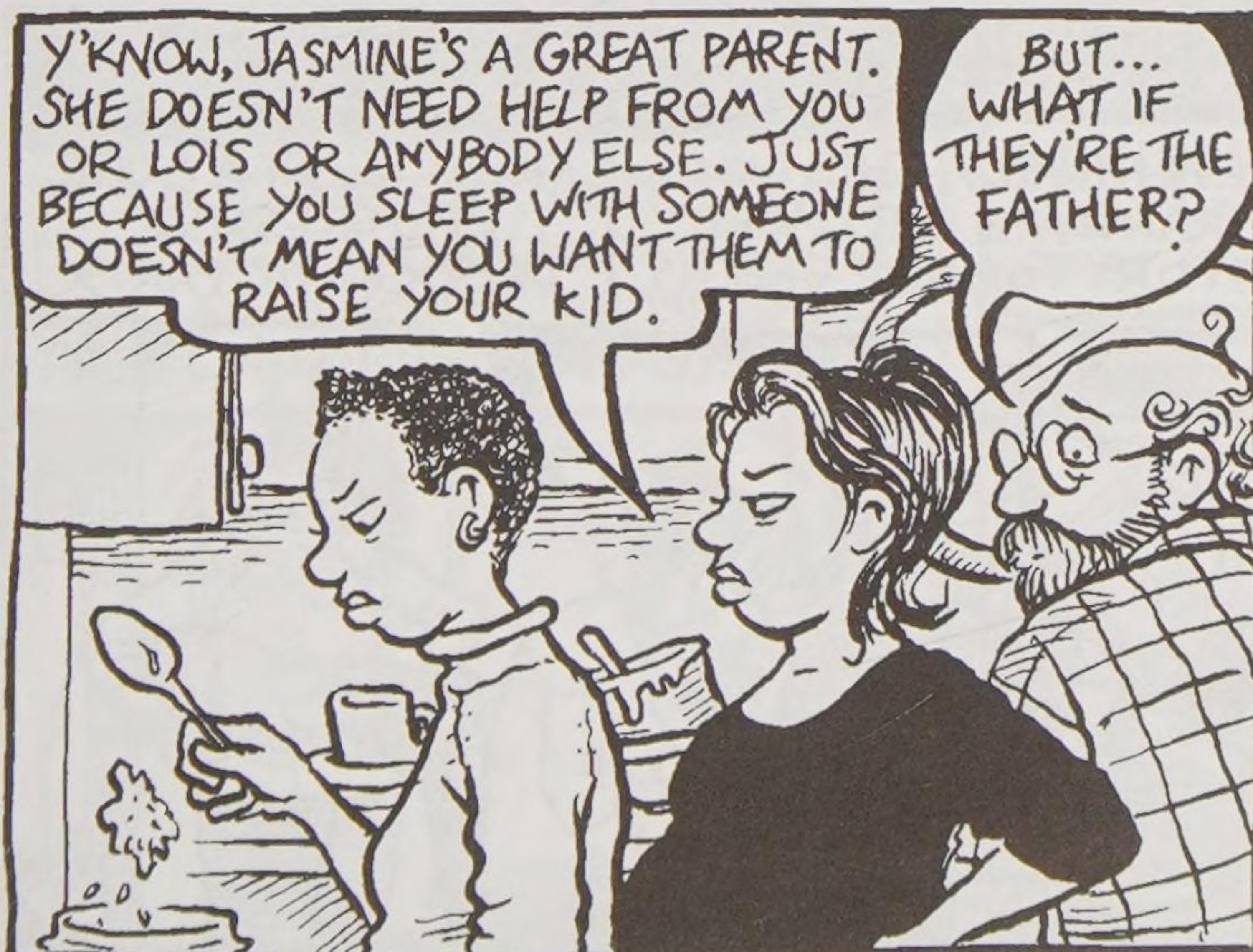
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HOW COME YOU WANTED TO KNOW THE SEX? AREN'T YOU AFRAID IT'LL LIMIT YOUR IDEAS ABOUT WHO THE BABY IS?

BELIEVE ME, IN THIS HOUSE, WE HAVE VERY FEW PRECONCEIVED IDEAS ABOUT WHAT A GIRL IS.





TOP 10

Analyses of the Republican Rout

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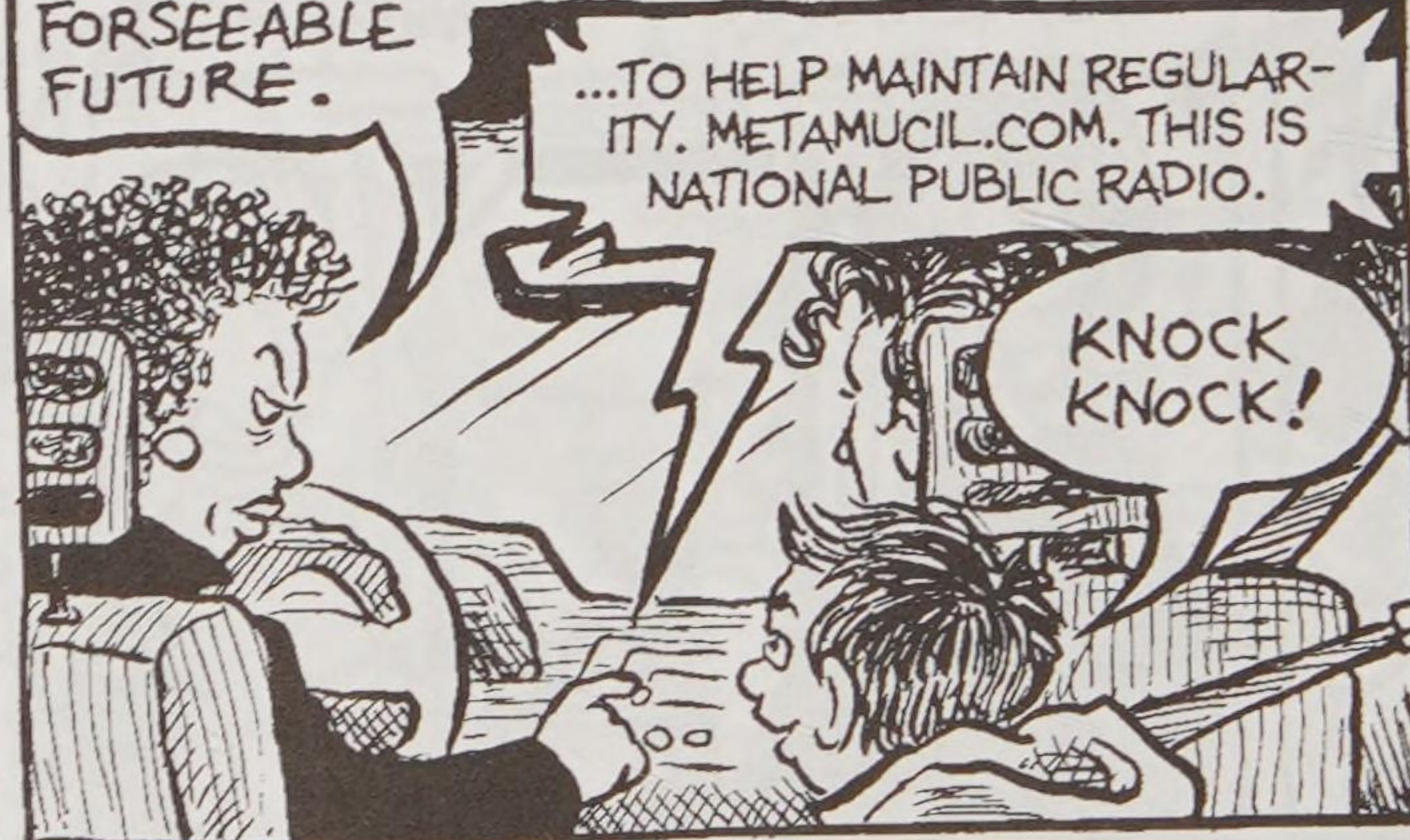
IT'S
THE
(NOUN
OR NOUN
PHRASE),
STUPID.

12/4

404

1. WAR

WELL, THEY PLAYED THE WAR CARD, AND IT WORKED. AND AS IF THINGS WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH, NOW WE HAVE TO LISTEN TO THE NAME "SAXBY CHAMBLISS" FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE.



2. MEDIA

BUT THE WAR CARD WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED, IF THERE HADN'T BEEN A TOTAL NEWS BLACKOUT ON ALL THE ANTIWAR PROTESTS.



3. PLUTOCRACY

BUT THEN, WHAT DO I EXPECT? WE HAVE CORPORATE MEDIA, WE GET CORPORATE GOVERNMENT.

SAXBY
CHAM-
BLISS!



4. RELENTLESS CAMPAIGN- ING BY THE PRESIDENT.

SAXBY CHAMBLISS!
SAXBY CHAMBLISS SAX-
BY CHAMBLISS SAXBY
CHAMBLISS!



5. BEST THING THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU LOOK AT THE REALLY, REALLY, REALLY LONG TERM.

EVENTUALLY, THIS WILL
TRANSLATE INTO MORE
SUPPORT FOR THE GREENS.

OR AT LEAST A MORE
PROGRESSIVE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY.



PLUS IT COULD **HURT BUSH** BECAUSE NOW HE'S GOT NO ONE ELSE TO BLAME.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING WITH MY YOGA MAT?

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT HELP WITH YOUR CONTORTIONS.

6. (&7.) NEW DEMOCRATS

FACE IT, THIS **SUCKS!** AND THANKS TO THE LILY-LIVERED LITE-G.O.P. **LOSERS** WHO'VE BEEN POSING AS DEMOCRATS, IT'S GONNA **KEEP SUCKING** FOR YEARS, IF NOT TILL THE END OF THE WORLD.

8. END OF THE WORLD

"...THE FACT THAT TOTALITARIAN GOVERNMENT, ITS OPEN CRIMINALITY NOTWITHSTANDING, RESTS ON MASS SUPPORT IS VERY DISQUIETING."

THE ORIGINS OF TOTALITARIANISM
ARENDT

9. INHERENT FLAWS OF THE TWO-PARTY POLITICAL SYSTEM

IT'S NOT "MASS SUPPORT," OKAY? IT'S A **RAZOR-THIN MARGIN**. WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS, WHOSE BRIGHT IDEA WAS THIS **VOTING BUSINESS**?

IF THE FOUNDING FATHERS COULD'VE SEEN THE FUTURE OF WINNER-TAKE-ALL ELECTIONS, THEY'D HAVE TORCHED THE CONSTITUTION AND CAUGHT THE FIRST FRIGATE TO PICCADILLY CIRCUS.

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF **CNN'S** TWO DECADES ON THE AIR HAS TO BE OUR AWARD WINNING COVERAGE OF THE GULF WAR...

10. MEDIA AGAIN

AT LEAST THEN WE'D BE WATCHING THE BBC.

VERBATIM CNN "REPORT"

NOW **HBO**, WHICH IS OWNED BY OUR PARENT COMPANY **AOL-TIME WARNER**, HAS MADE A NEW MOVIE ABOUT THE STORY BEHIND OUR COVERAGE. ACTOR **MICHAEL KEATON** IS HERE TO TALK WITH US.

female trouble

12/18

405

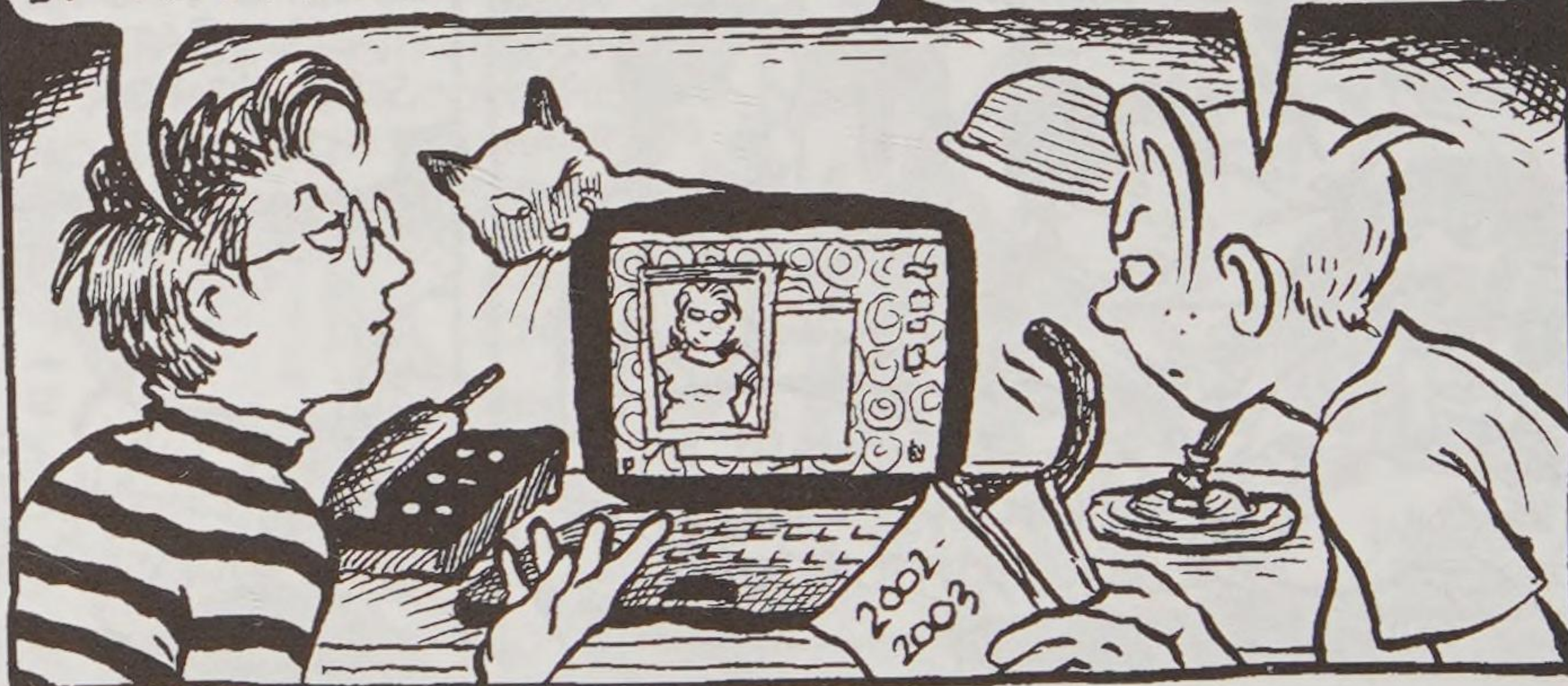
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HUH. HAVE YOU TOLD SYDNEY ABOUT HER?



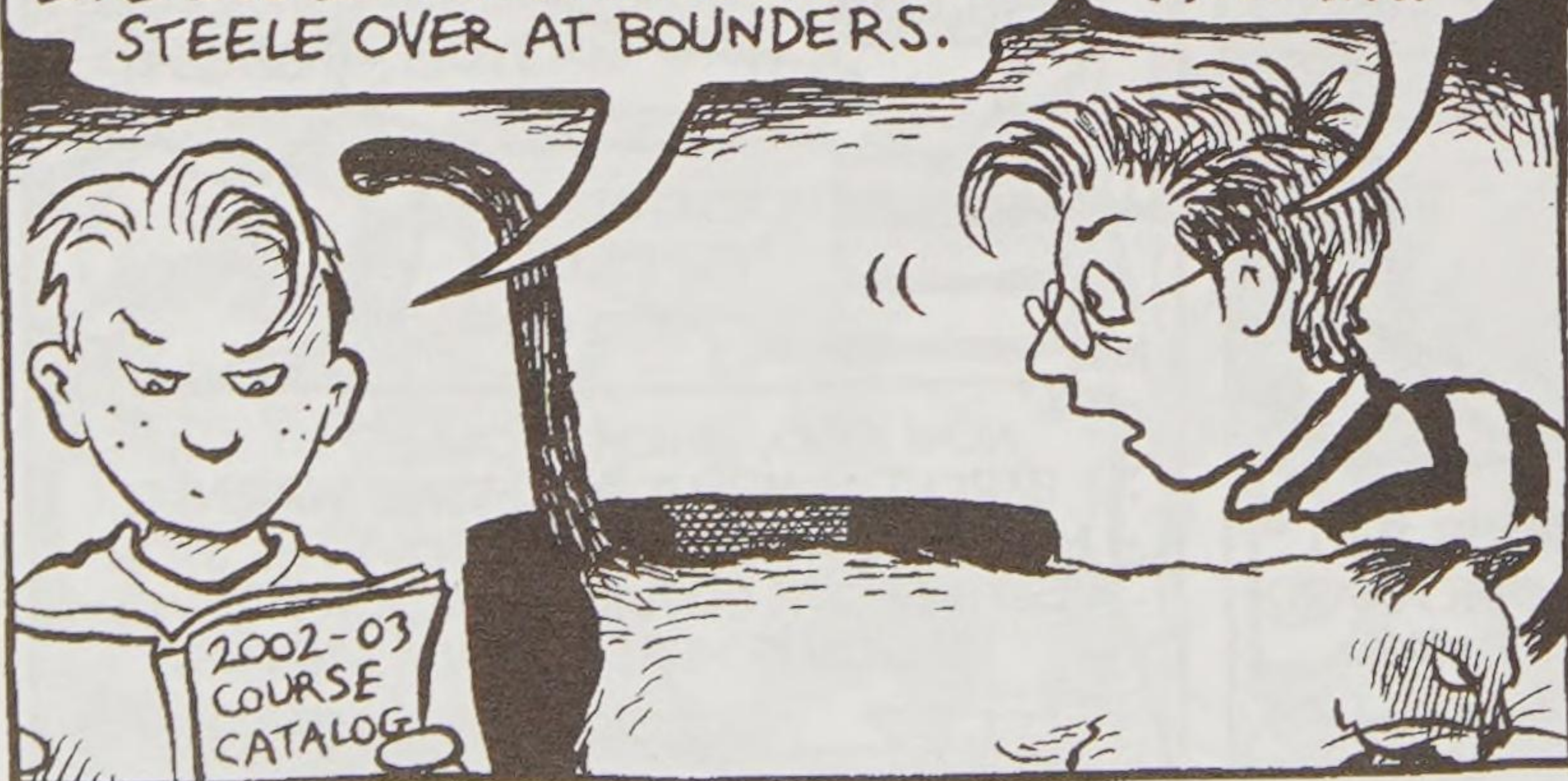
YEAH, BUT SHE UNDERSTANDS IT'S ONLY A CRUSH. I THINK FIONA IS JUST THE EMBODIMENT OF MY EXCITEMENT ABOUT THE THINGS I'M LEARNING IN THE PROGRAM.

IF I'D KNOWN THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM WAS EMBODIED LIKE THAT, I'D'VE GONE TO LIBRARY SCHOOL TOO.



BUT SADLY, WHILE YOU AND YOUR CHIPPY ARE PANTING OVER "CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE," IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE SHOVELING DANIELLE STEELE OVER AT BOUNDERS.

BOUNDERS?! YOU GOT A JOB AT BOUNDERS BOOKS-N-MUZAK?!!



WELL, I APPLIED FOR ONE. LET'S FACE IT. WHAT ELSE AM I FIT FOR?

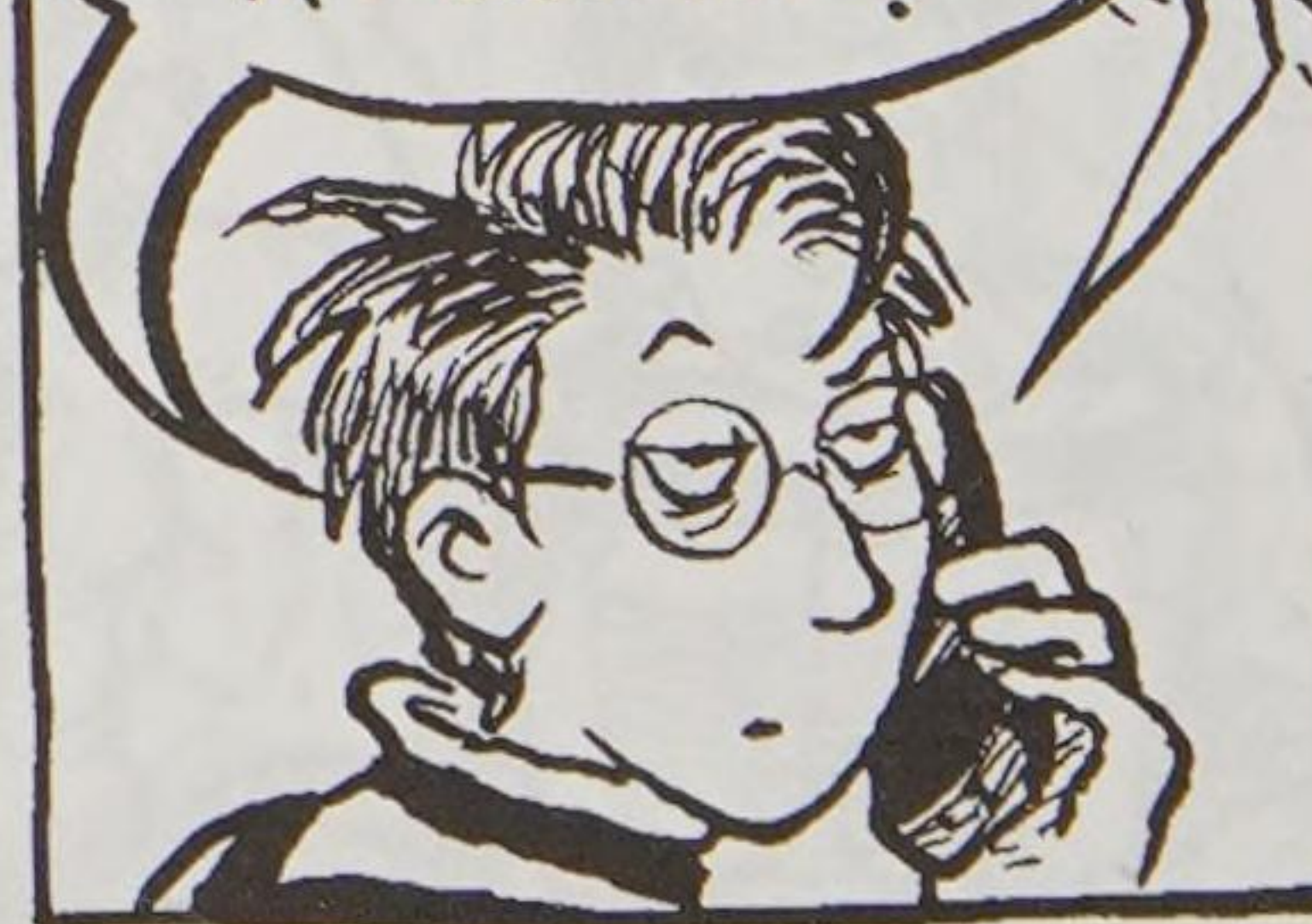
BUT LOIS...



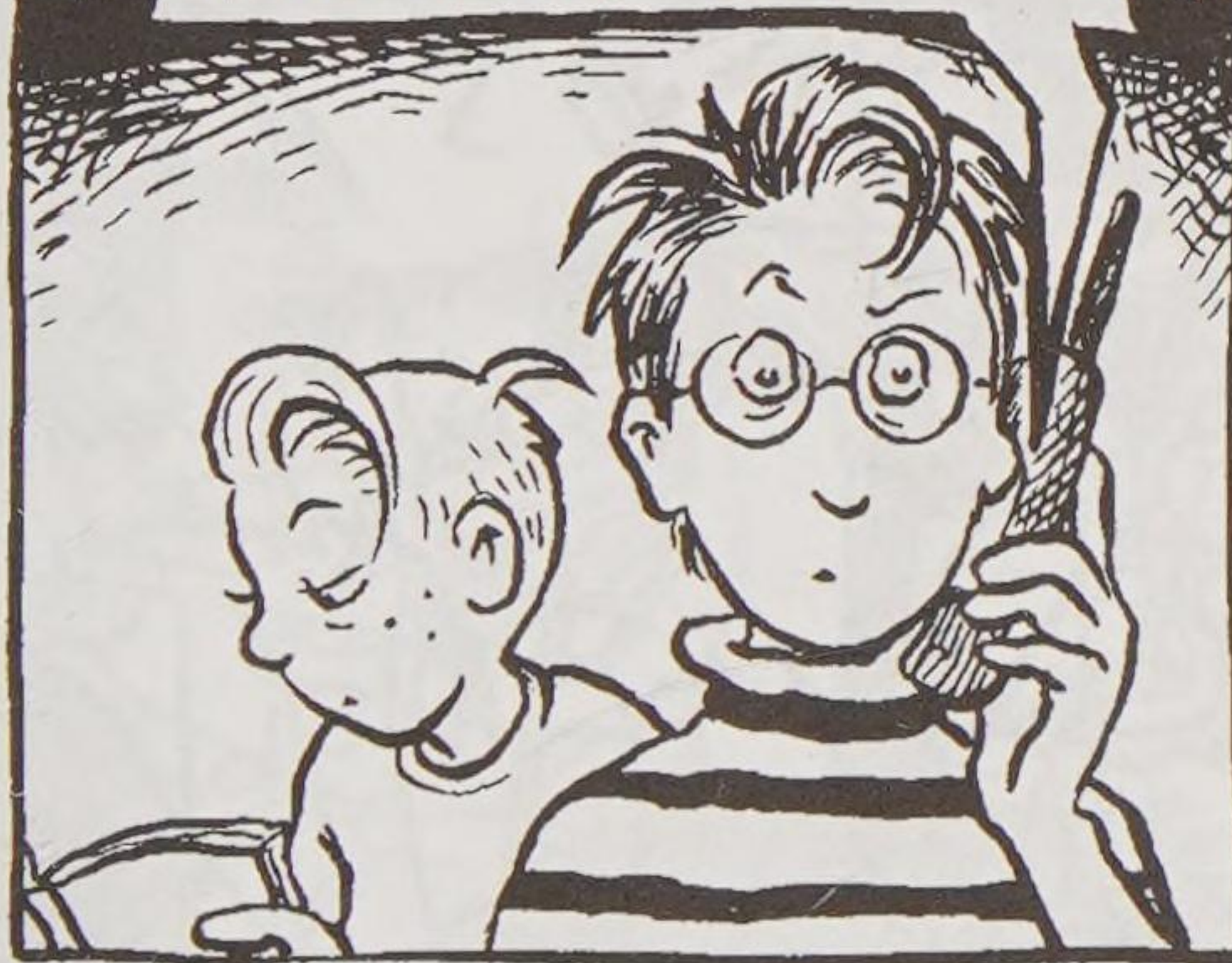
HELLO?

SYDNEY KU... KUR... KROTCH-OFFSKI?

NO, SHE'S NOT HERE. CAN I TAKE A MESSAGE?



THIS IS MARCIA AT THE BREAST CENTER. COULD YOU PLEASE ASK HER TO GIVE US A CALL? THANKS! HAVE A NICE DAY! CLIK!

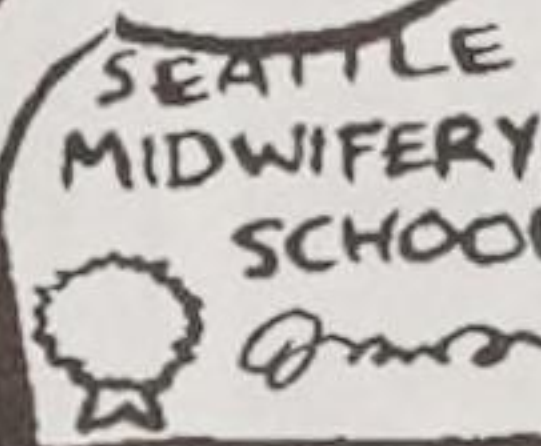


I'M HOPING FOR AN EVENING SHIFT, JUST TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE. SPARROW AND STUART ARE DRIVING ME NUTS. SHE'S CONVINCED SOMETHING'S GONNA GO WRONG. HE'S MANIACALLY UPBEAT. IT'S LIKE LIVING WITH THOMAS HOBBS AND GIDGET!



MEANWHILE...

I TOLD YOU.



SO IT'S... IT'S NOT JUST BRAXTON-HICKS?

NOPE. IT'S PRETERM LABOR, ALL RIGHT. BUT YOUR CERVIX HASN'T DILATED AT ALL. SO THAT'S GOOD.



GOOD. GOOD IS GOOD.

BUT I HAVE 6 WEEKS TO GO. WHAT DO I DO?

YOU'RE GOING TO NEED COMPLETE BEDREST. THE CONTRACTIONS SEEM TO HAVE SLOWED DOWN. BUT IF THEY START COMING CLOSE TOGETHER AGAIN, I WANT YOU TO CALL DR. HU.



SOUTHERN TRAVERSE

THANKS TO NAN REID, MIDWIFE TO THE COMIX.

THEN WHAT? WHAT'S THE WORST CASE SCENARIO?



WELL, A PREMATURE DELIVERY. BUT LET'S NOT GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES. BED-REST OFTEN DOES THE TRICK.



COMPLETE BEDREST! DOESN'T THAT SOUND LIKE FUN?!



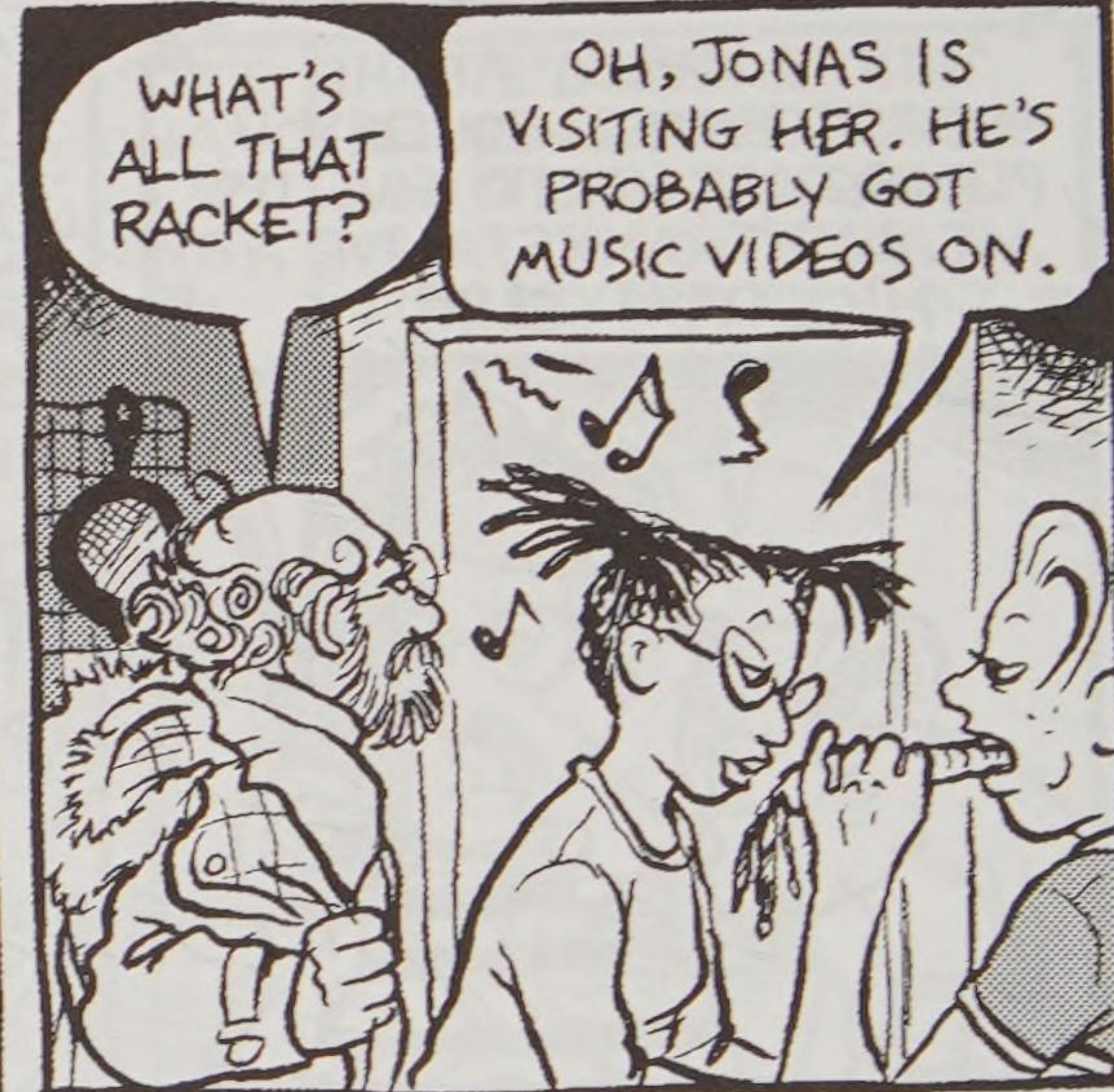
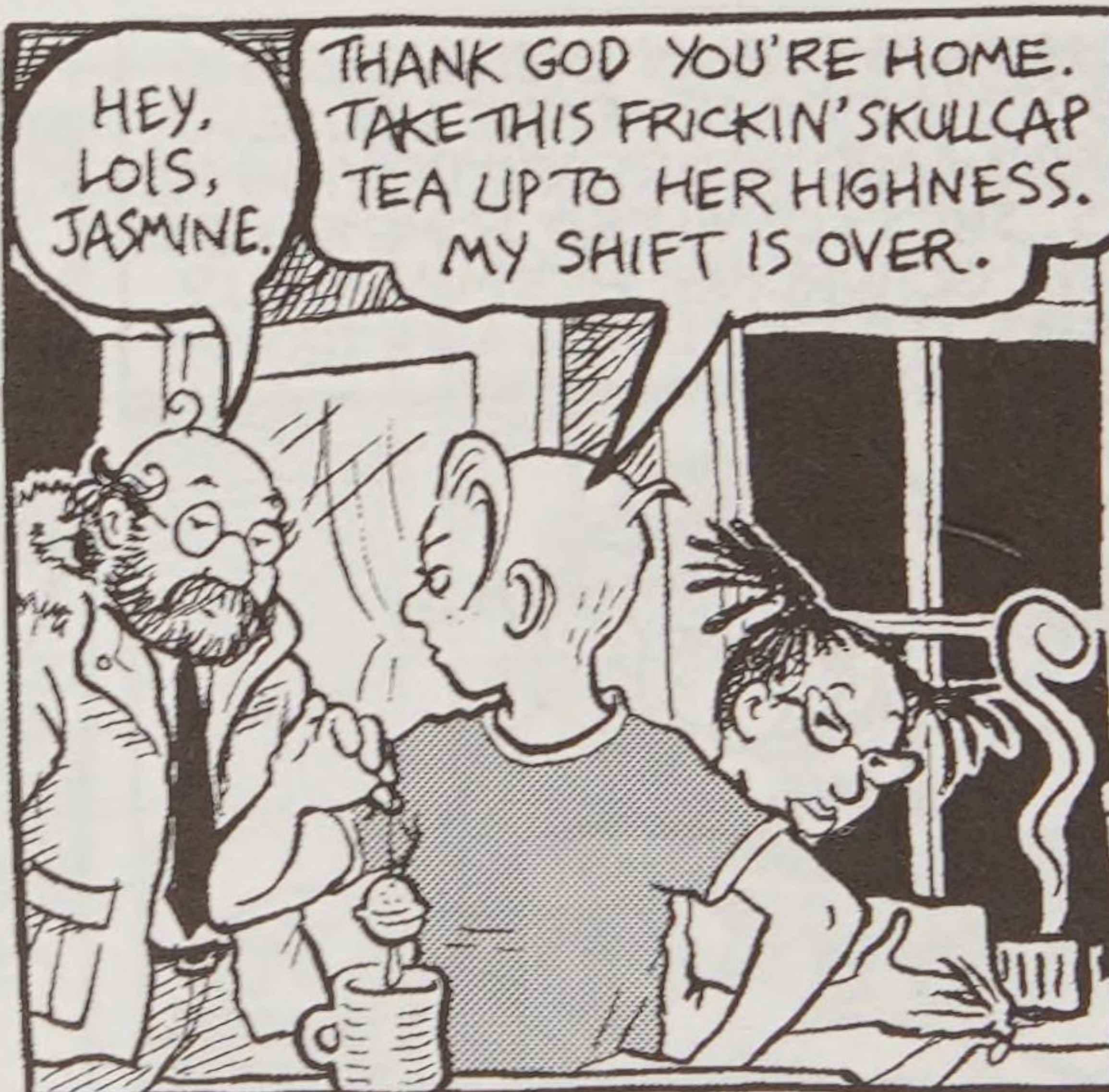
THE AWFUL TRUTH

1/1

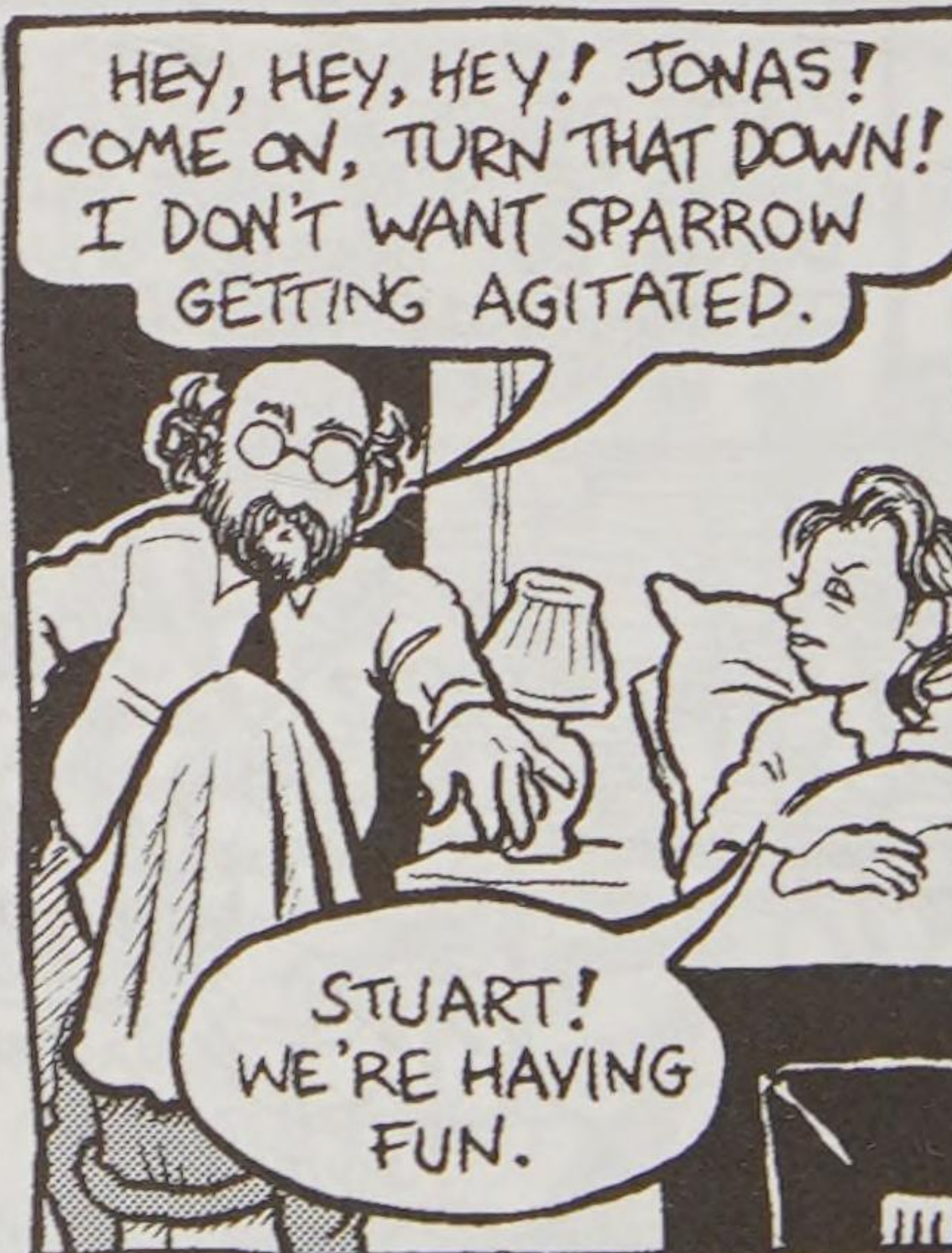
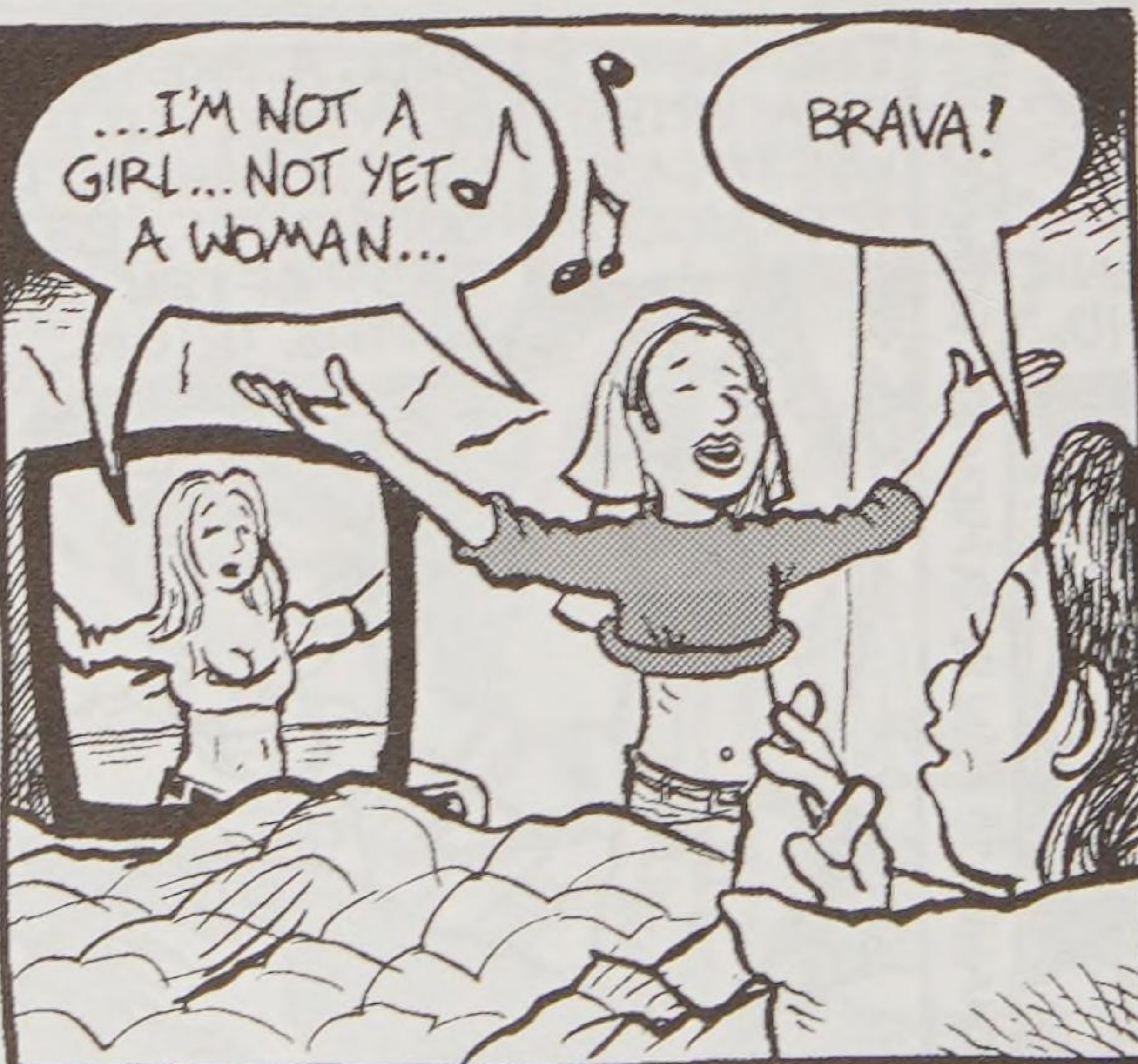
406

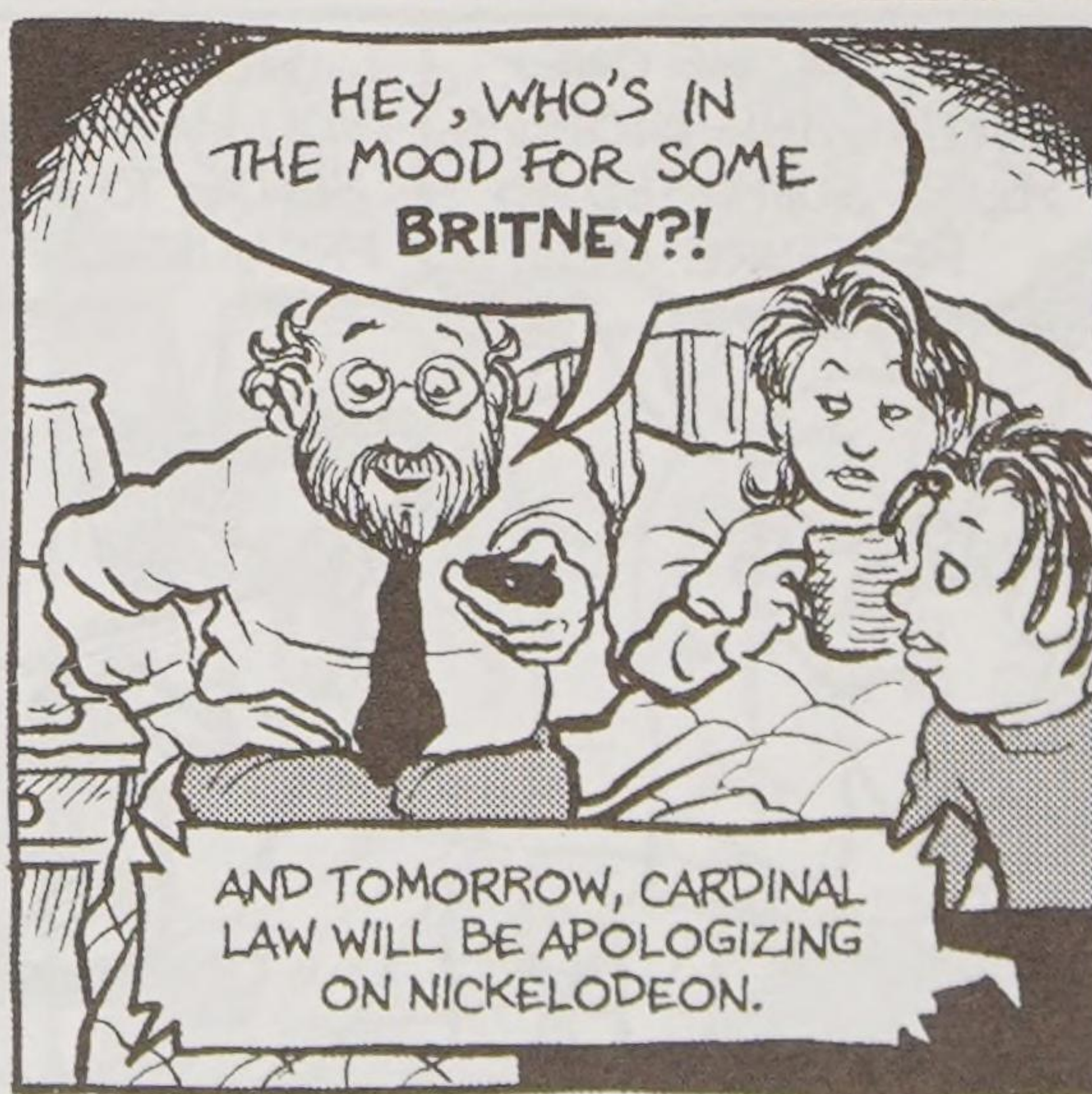
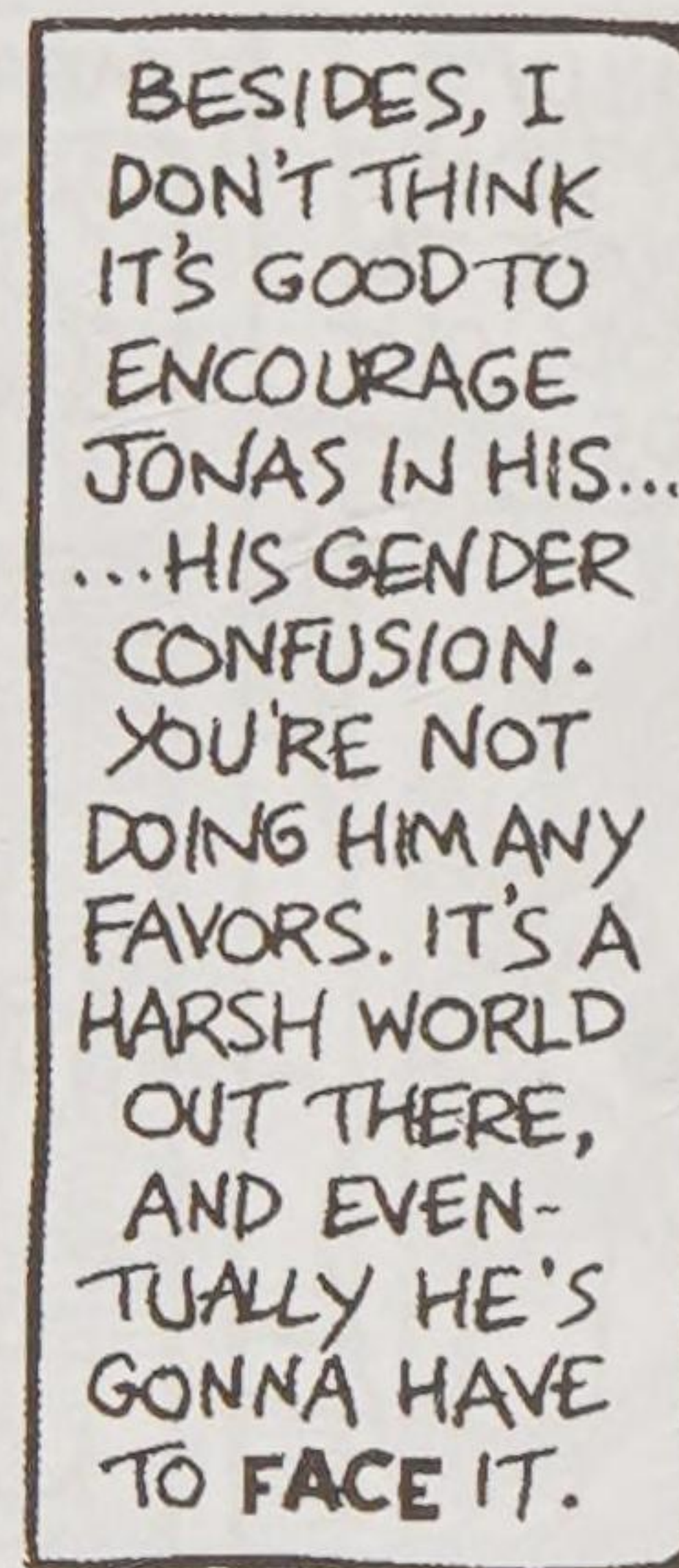
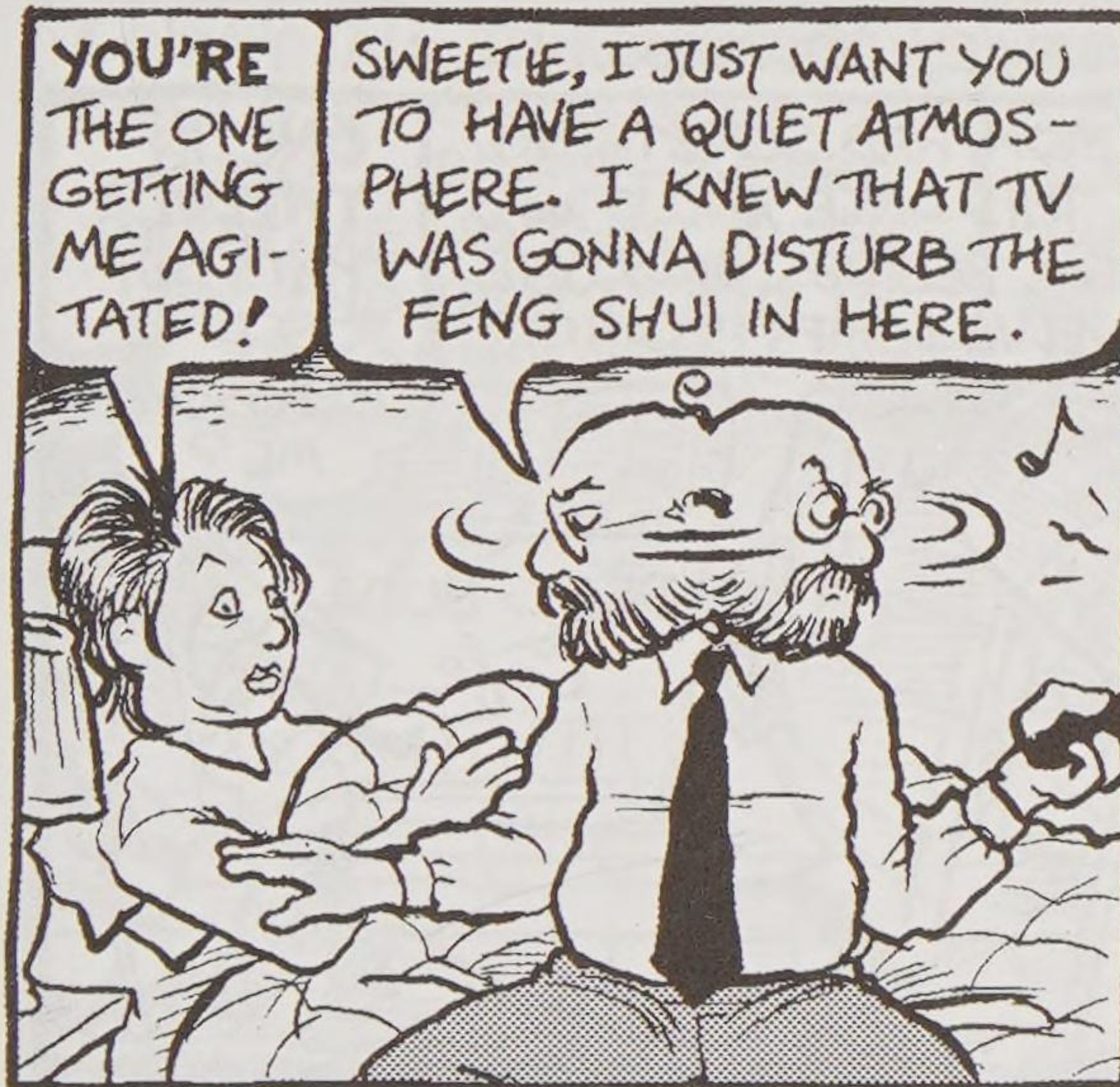
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LET'S SEE HOW SPARROW'S BEDREST IS PROGRESSING.



...FEELS LIKE I'M CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE... THAT'S WHEN I REALIZE...





Swords into joysticks

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1/15

407

HI, ANN.
IS RAFFI
READY?

THEY'RE UP ON BILLY'S
PLAYSTATION. THEY WON'T
HEAR YOU. YOU'LL HAVE TO
GO PRY THE CONTROLS OUT
OF HIS HANDS.

MEANWHILE, DOWNTOWN...

MY MOM HAD SOMETHING
LIKE THIS ONCE AND IT WAS
BENIGN. BESIDES, ONLY ONE
IN TWELVE LUMPS IS CANCER.

ONE IN
TWELVE?
THAT'S SUP-
POSED TO
REASSURE
ME?

PEST-BUDA
Cafe

HEY, I'M THE ONE
GETTING THE **BIOPSY**.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO
REASSURE ME.

I WOULD, IF
YOU HAD THE
SENSE TO BE
FREAKING OUT.

WORST CASE, IT'S
CANCER. AND IF IT IS,
I'LL DEAL WITH IT.
PEOPLE DO THAT
EVERY DAY.

SO WHAT DID
YOU DO TODAY?
HAVE PHONE
SEX WITH FIONA,
THE TATTOOED
LIBRARIAN?

SYDNEY, I
THINK WE
SHOULD TALK
ABOUT HOW
YOU'RE
FEELING.

WHAT WAS SHE
WEARING? A
THONG MADE
FROM RECYCLED
CARD CATALOG
ENTRIES?

I DIDN'T TALK TO FIONA TODAY!
I MET WITH MY CONTACT AT THE
PUBLIC LIBRARY—WHERE
THERE ARE NO JOBS, BY THE
WAY. AND THEN I WENT TO
THAT ANTIWAR DEMO.

RIGHT ON,
SISTER!
DOWN WITH
THE PATRI-
ARCHAL WAR
MACHINE!



WHAT'S
YOUR
POINT?

MY POINT IS, WHY NOT GET
RID OF SADDAM? IRAQIS
WANT DEMOCRACY. INTER-
VENTION COULD HELP
LIBERALIZE THE WHOLE
ARAB WORLD.



YEAH, I ALWAYS FIND THAT
INVADING A COUNTRY WITH-
OUT IMMEDIATE PROVO-
CATION SETS A NICE DEM-
OCRATIC PRECEDENT.



COME ON! VIOLENCE
DOESN'T SOLVE
THINGS! IT'S BESTIAL,
AN OBSOLETE PARA-
DIGM, A TREATABLE
SIDE-EFFECT OF
TESTOSTERONE!

OKAY, A.) THERE IS
SUCH A THING AS A
JUST WAR. AND B.)
PEOPLE ARE VIOLENT.
IF MEN DIDN'T GO TO
WAR, WOMEN WOULD
HAVE TO INVENT IT!



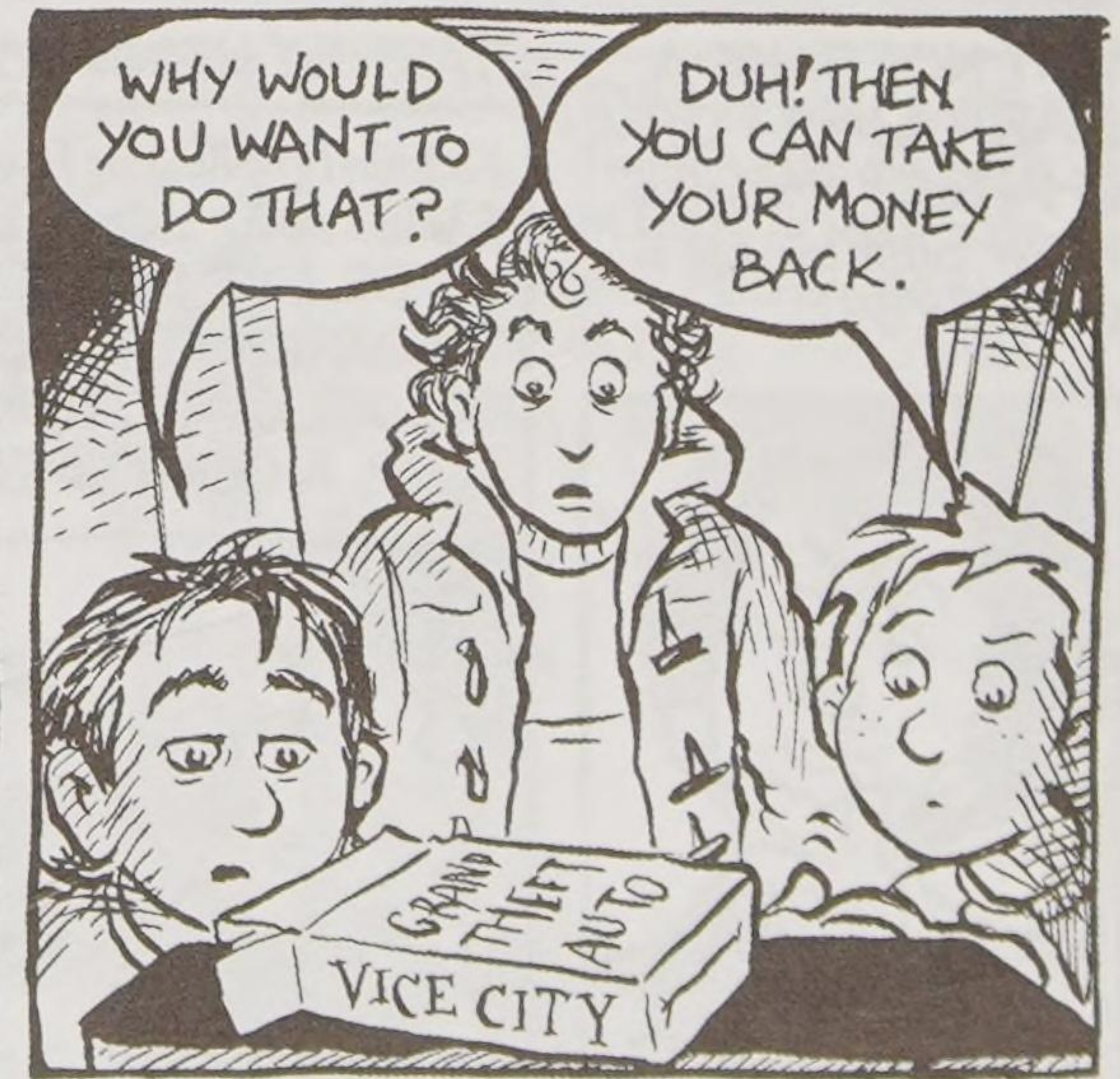
BACK IN SUBURBIA...

AN' THEN AFTER YOU
HAVE SEX WITH THE HO,
YOU CAN KILL HER.



WHY WOULD
YOU WANT TO
DO THAT?

DUH! THEN
YOU CAN TAKE
YOUR MONEY
BACK.



foreign policy

(don't try this at home)

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IS YOUR SUPREME AUTHORITY BEING FLAGRANTLY FLOUTED?



ARE YOU TIRED OF TEDIOUS NEGOTIATIONS AND MESSY COMPROMISES?



WHY NOT TAKE A **HARD LINE** FOR A CHANGE? IMAGINE HOW SIMPLE LIFE COULD BE!



START BY USING YOUR WORDS...

THE THING IS, RAFFI--YOU'RE **EVIL**. AND SO IS BILLY, AND SO IS BILLY'S DAD. THE THREE OF YOU ARE JUST A **BLOC** OF EVIL, A... A **COALITION**, A LEAGUE A BAND, A **CONFEDERACY** OF EVIL!



... AND SOME SANCTIONS, ...



... BUT THEN, HAUL OUT YOUR **BIG STICK!**



DON'T TRUST ANYONE FURTHER THAN
YOU CAN LAUNCH A BALLISTIC MISSILE.



DON'T PANDER TO MALEFACTORS BY
PROVIDING ANY INCENTIVE FOR THEM
TO CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOR.



IGNORE BLEEDING-HEART TERRORIST
SYMPATHIZERS.



THEN AGAIN, PERHAPS THERE'S SOMETHING
TO BE SAID FOR TEDIOUS NEGOTIATIONS.



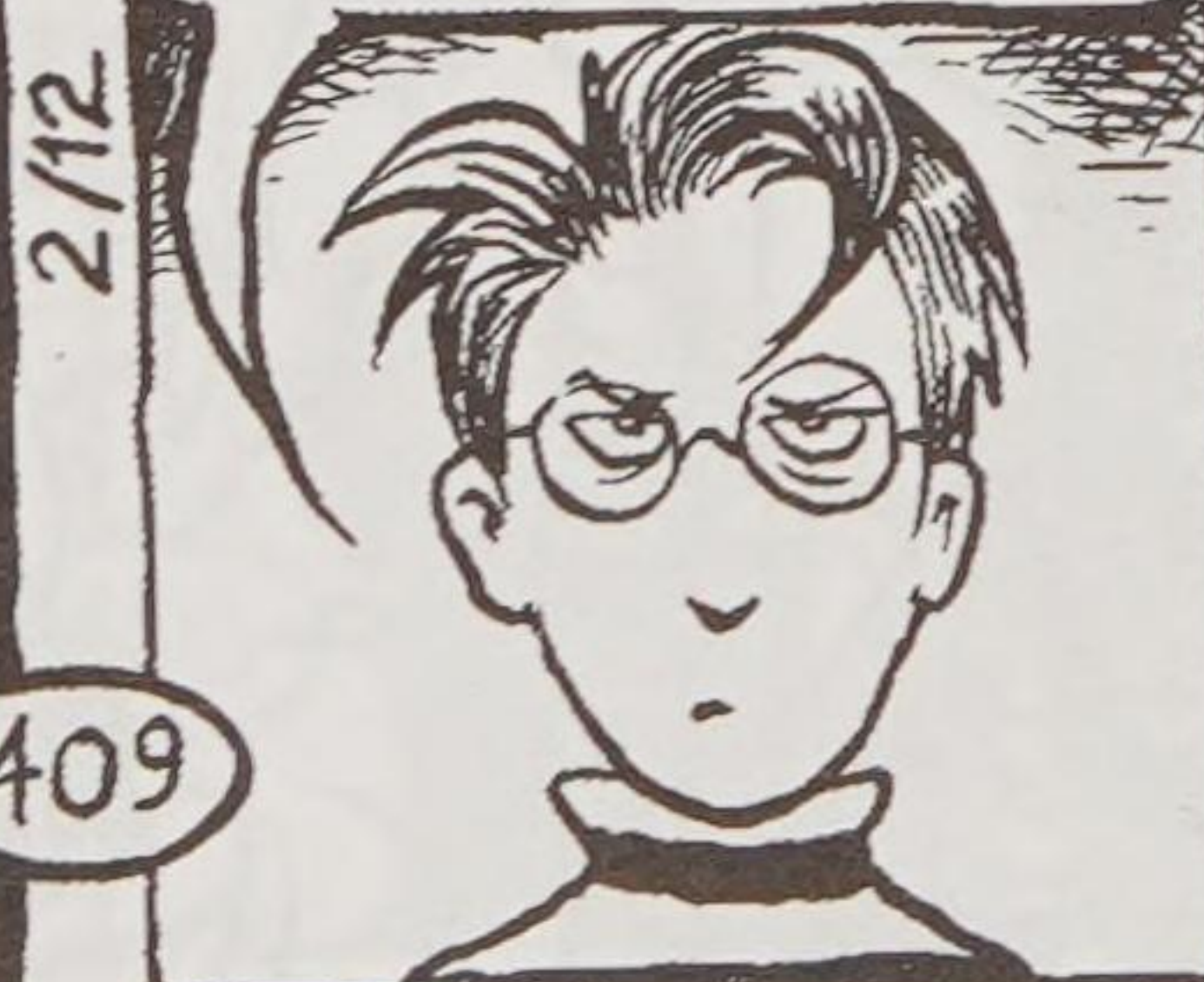
LATER...



WE
INTERRUPT
OUR
REGULARLY
SCHEDULED
COMIC STRIP
FOR THIS
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE.

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SORRY, FOLKS. I
KNOW YOU WERE
EXPECTING YOUR
USUAL DOSE OF
FROTHY, LIFESTYLE-
AFFIRMING CARTOON
ZANINESS. BUT WE
NEED TO TALK.



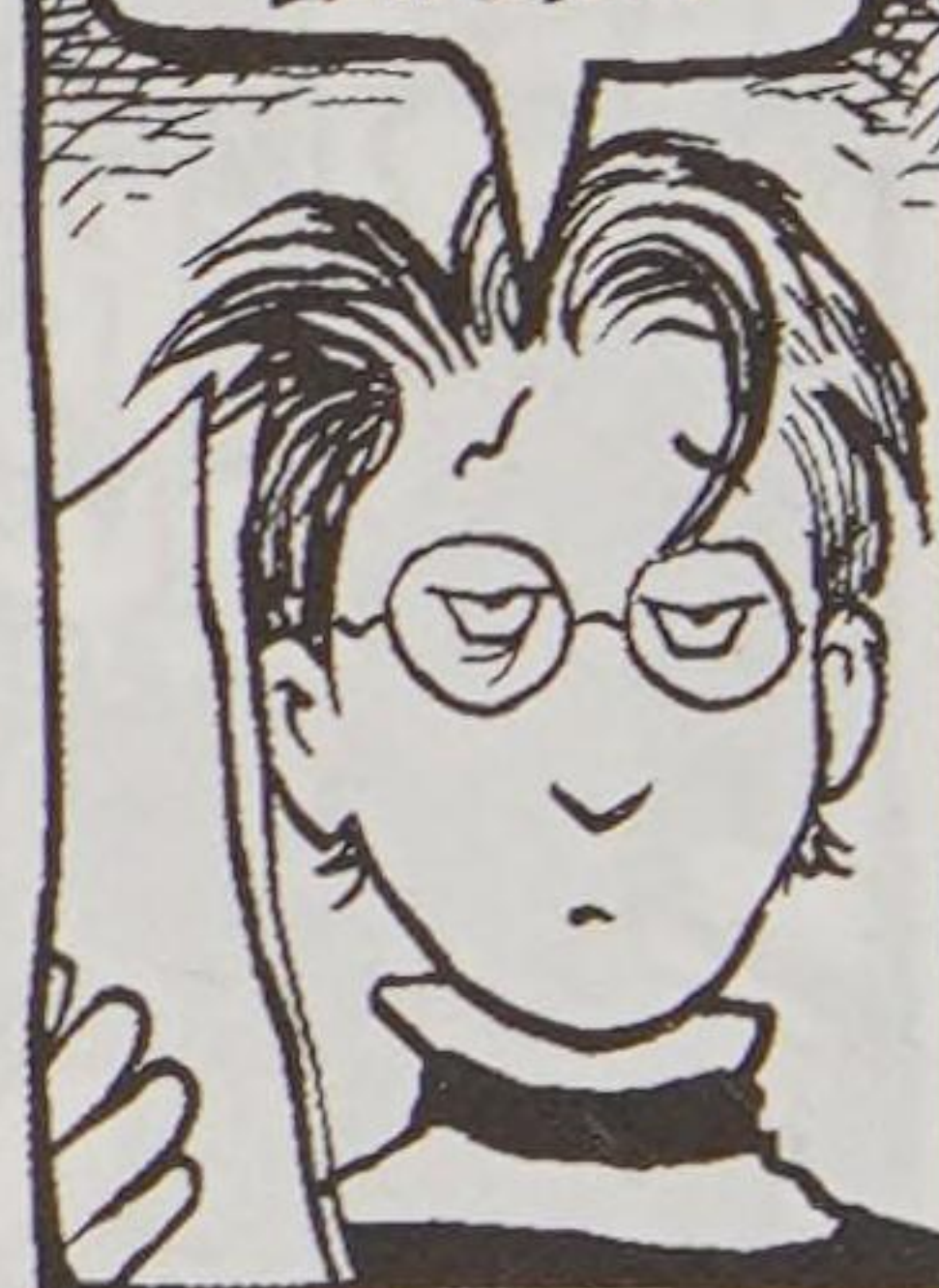
DOES THAT
MEAN I CAN TAKE
THIS OFF?

AND CAN I GET
OUT OF THIS
RIDICULOUS
DRAG?

YEAH, YEAH.
EVERYBODY
TAKE FIVE.



APPARENTLY,
SOME OF YOU
ARE FINDING
THE STRIP TO
BE A BIT OF A
DOWNER
LATELY.



WHY'D THE BOOKSTORE HAVE TO CLOSE,
YOU ASK. WHAT'S WITH THE **LINES** UNDER
EVERYONE'S EYES? HOW COME NO ONE'S
HAVING **SEX**? AND ALL THE BITTERNESS, THE
DRINKING, THE ANTIDEPRESSANTS! WHERE'S
THE **JOY**??

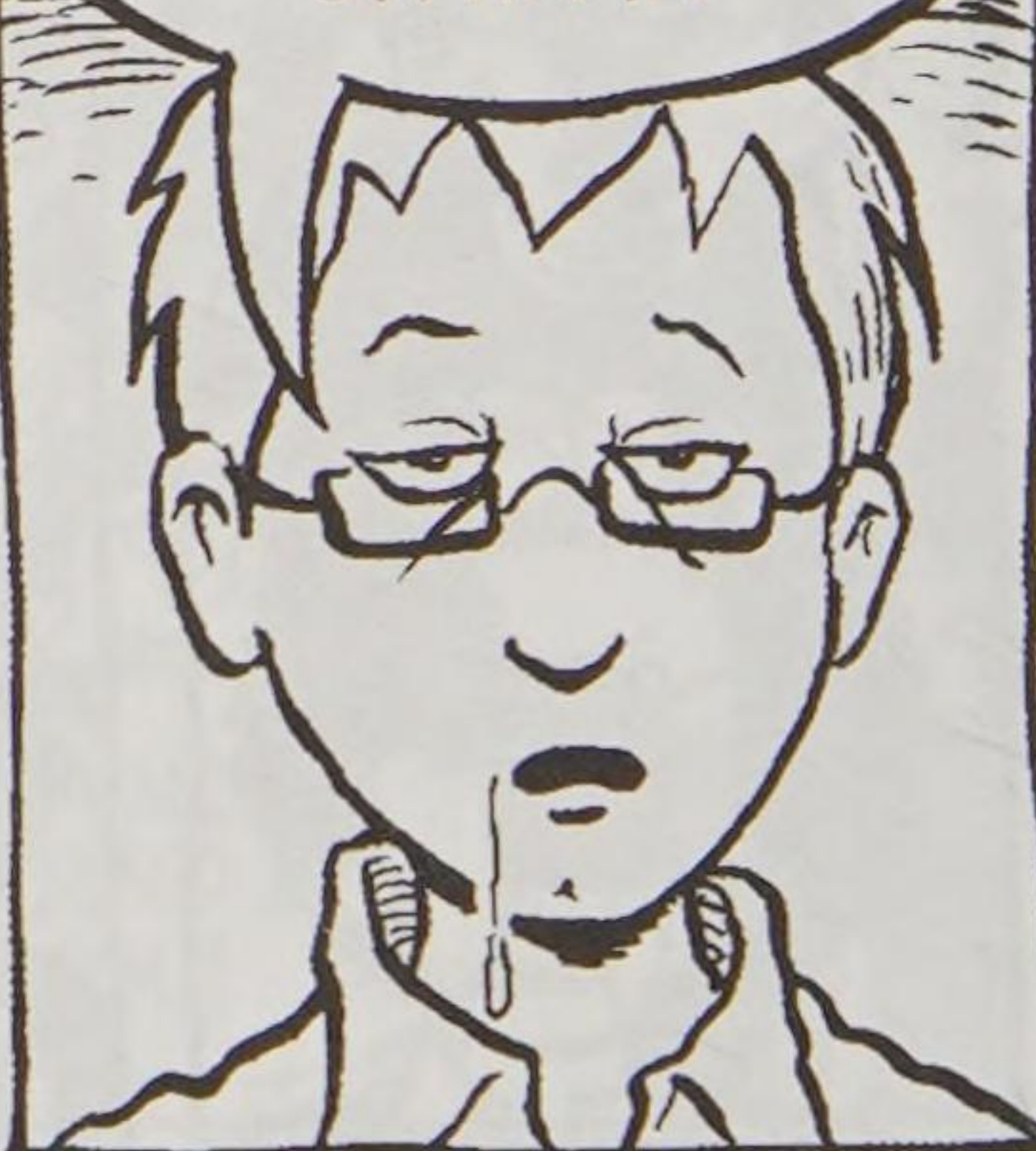


EXCUSE ME. I'D JUST LIKE TO
POINT OUT THAT SELF-REFER-
ENTIALITY IN ENTERTAINMENT IS
AN INEXCUSABLY INDULGENT
CONCEIT.

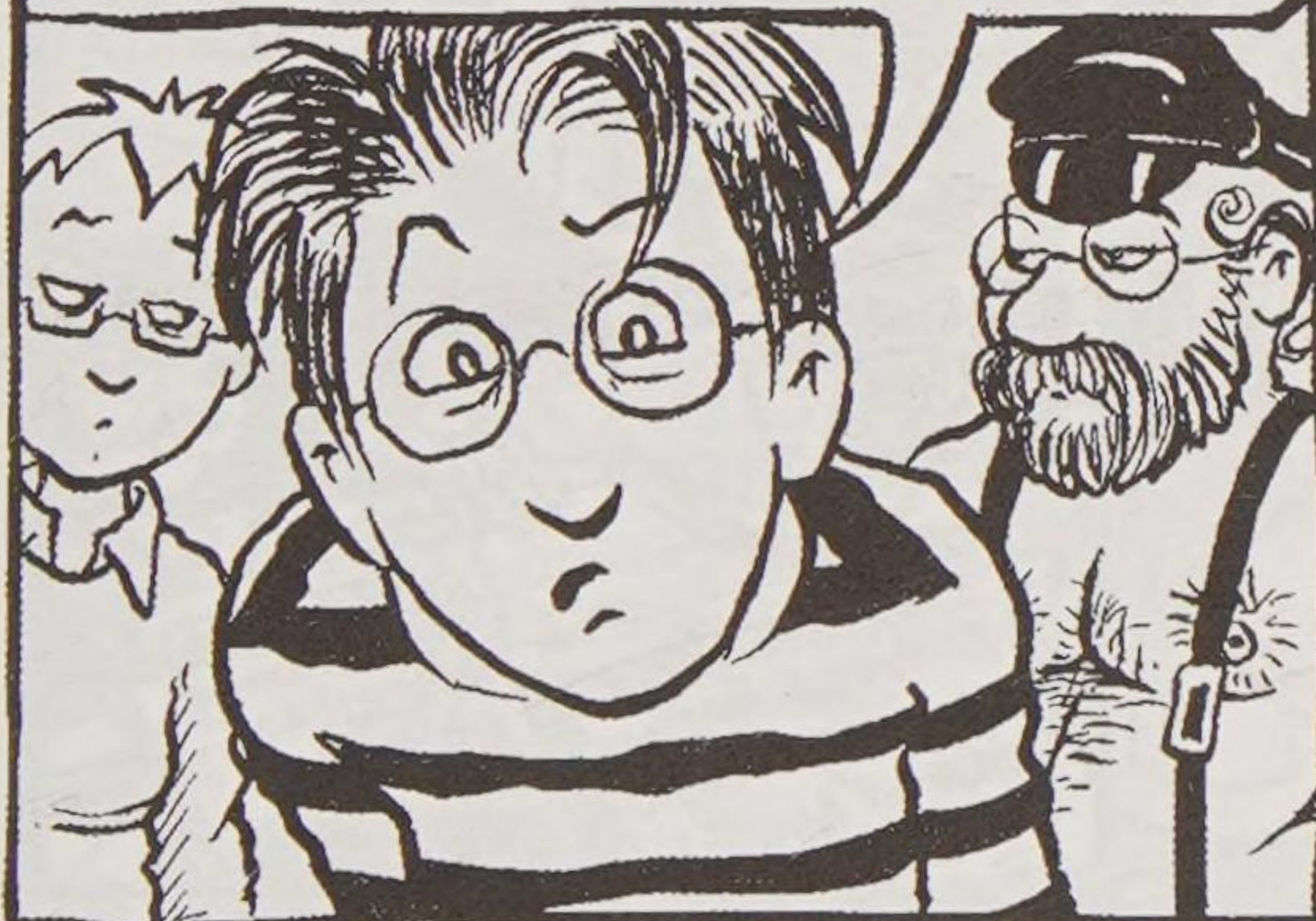
YO,
MS. MENSA.
WE'RE OFF-
DUTY.



OH. HEY, WAS
"THE BACHELORETTE"
AWESOME LAST NIGHT,
OR WHAT?



WHERE'S THE "JOY"?!!! WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT PLANET YOU PEOPLE ARE E-MAILING FROM, BUT ON **THIS** ONE, THERE'S NOT A BIG **JOY SURPLUS** AT THE MOMENT.



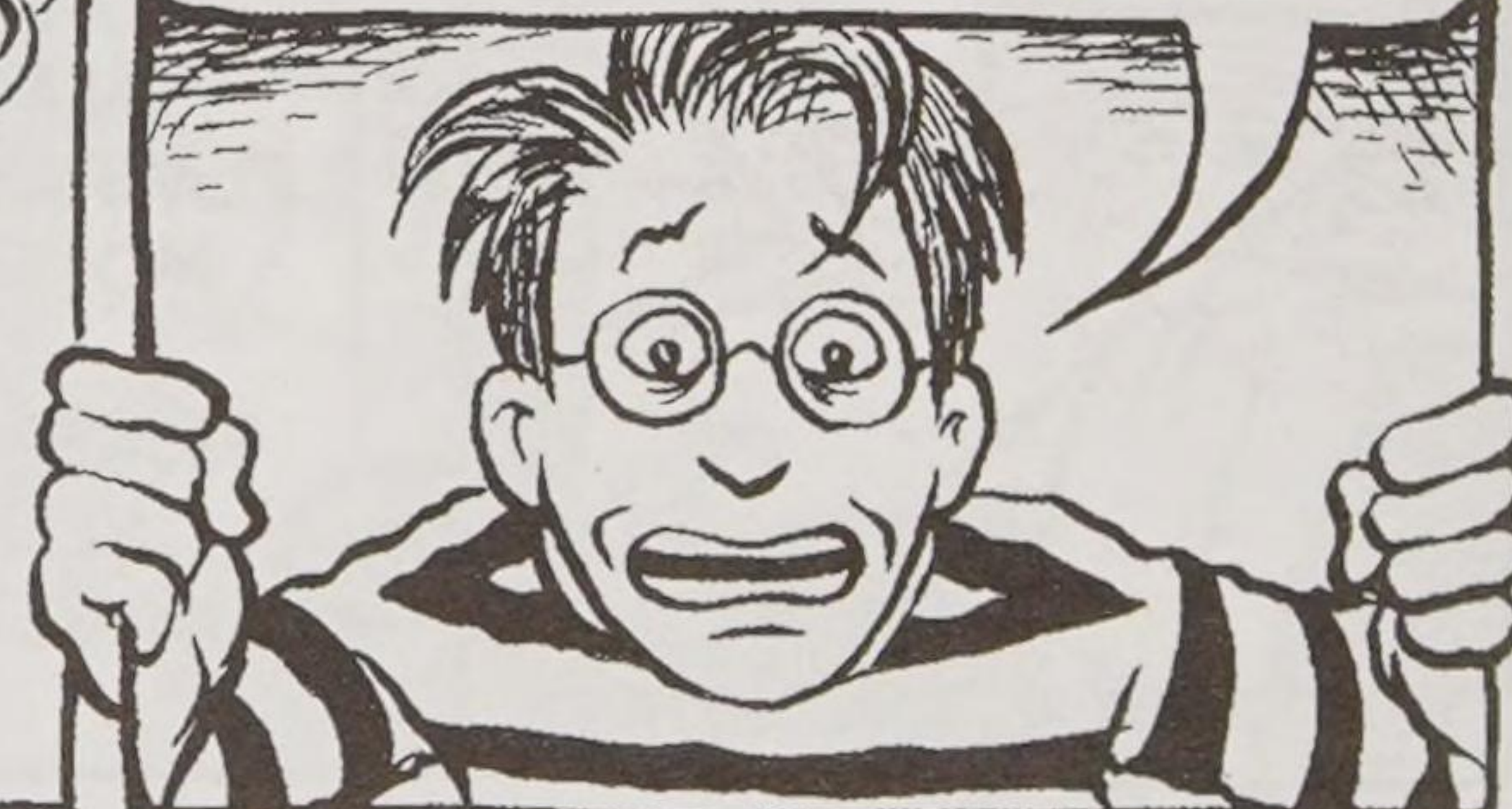
EVEN IF BUSH AND HIS IMPERIAL GUARD DON'T INCITE A **MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION** SCENARIO SOON...



HEY!



...THEY'RE DRAGGING US INTO AN **IRREVERSIBLE POLICY VORTEX!** AN OLD TESTAMENT, SOCIAL DARWINIST, KU KLUX KLAN, KINDER KIRCHE KÜCHE, TAKE FROM THE POOR, GIVE TO THE RICH, PAVE ALASKA, DAMN THE TORPEDOS **FLUME TO HELL!**



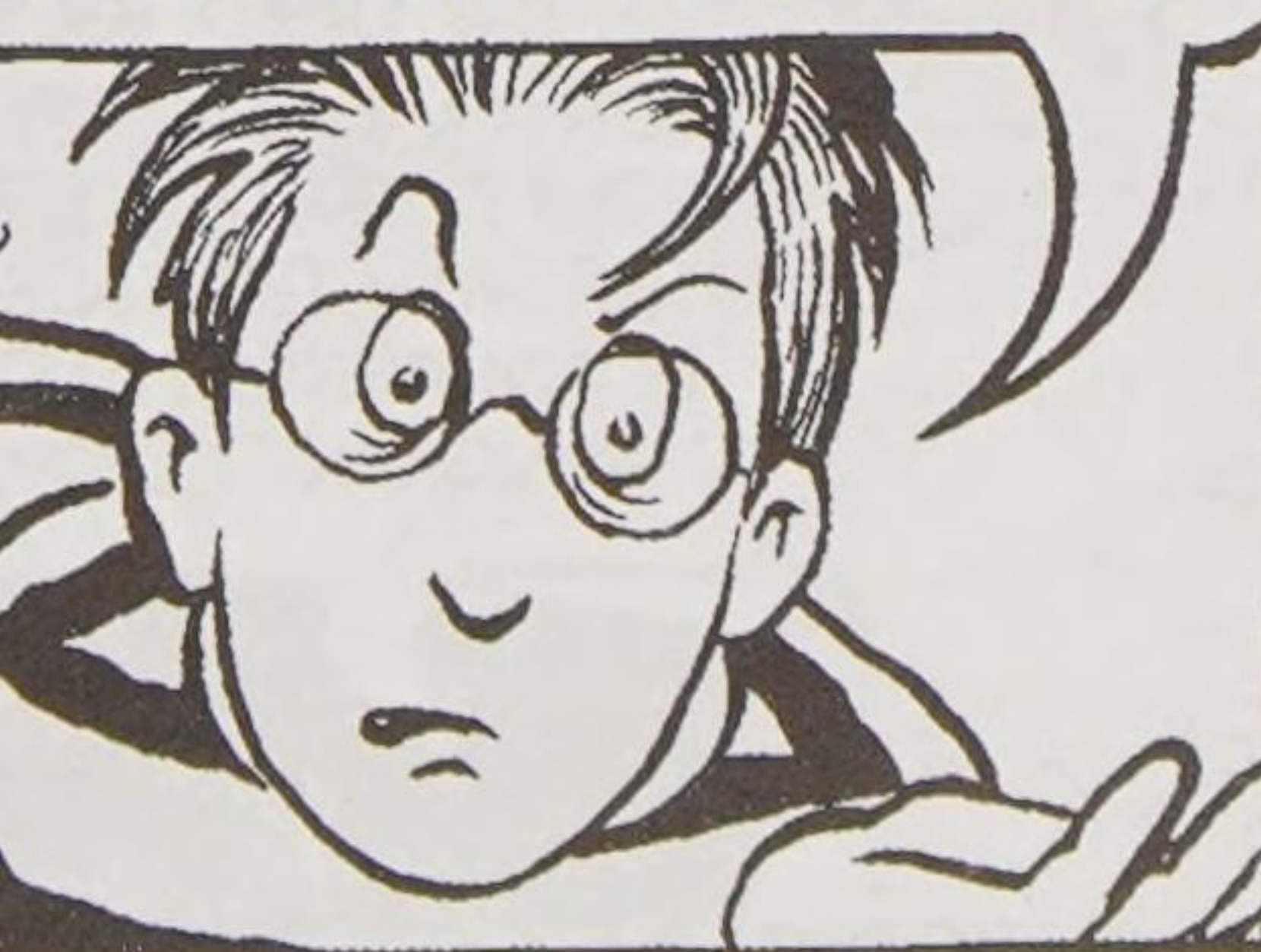
THE BAD GUYS ARE WINNING AND THEY'RE GONNA **KEEP** WINNING... **BECAUSE THEY'RE BAD!**



GOD, I DO HAVE LINES UNDER MY EYES.



THINK ABOUT IT! HOW CAN A MOTLEY BUNCH OF EGALITARIAN, DIVERSITY-RESPECTING **NICE PEOPLE** EVER **HOPE** TO TRIUMPH OVER THE HIERARCHICAL, MILITARISTIC, EMPIRE-SEEKING FORCES OF **GLOBAL CAPITAL?**



THAT'S WHY I'M STARTING AN **ANTIWAR MILITIA.**



OKAY, THERE GOES OUR MILLION-DOLLAR ENDORSEMENT FROM THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM.

GET THAT PANEL UP. NOW.



WE EXPERIENCE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY. PLEASE STAND BY.

alienated labor

2/26

410

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ISN'T THERE
ENOUGH TO
WORRY ABOUT
IN LIFE
WITHOUT
IMPENDING
WORLD WAR
AND THE
FLAGRANT FEAR-
MONGERING
OF
FRAUDULENTLY
ELECTED
FIGUREHEADS?

...AND WOULD YOU LIKE
TO RECEIVE OUR E-MAIL
NEWSLETTER?

BOUNDERS
BOOKS-N-MUZAK

RIGHT. I NEED MORE JUNK
E-MAIL LIKE I NEED A RIVET
THROUGH MY SCROTUM.

COOL.
JUST FILL
THIS OUT.

BOUNDERS
GIFT
CERTIFICATE
\$100
\$250
\$500

The Daily Distress
RUMMY TO NATO:
WE DON'T NEED NO
STARKIN' ALLIES

NY POSTAL
AMERICANS
BOYCOTT
BRUSSELS
SPROUTS

SWEETIE, THE EMERGENCY SHELTER'S
SWAMPED BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER.
I'M GONNA HAVE TO GO HELP OUT.

SOUTH END
HOMELESS COALITION
5K RACE

UNIVERSAL
LIVING
WAGE

BUSH VOWS TO
STOP 'UNFAIR'
TAXATION OF COR-
PORATE DIVIDENDS

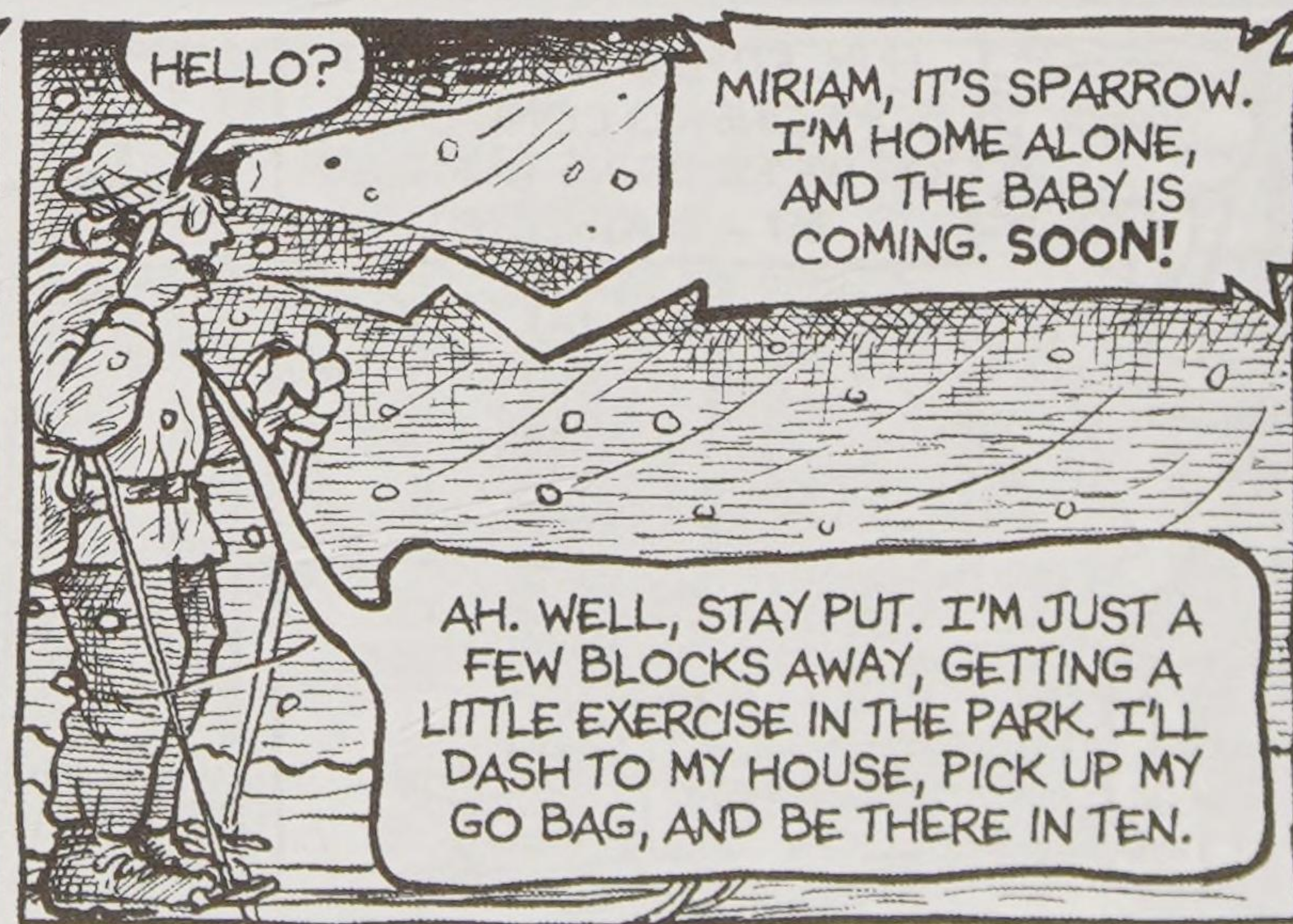
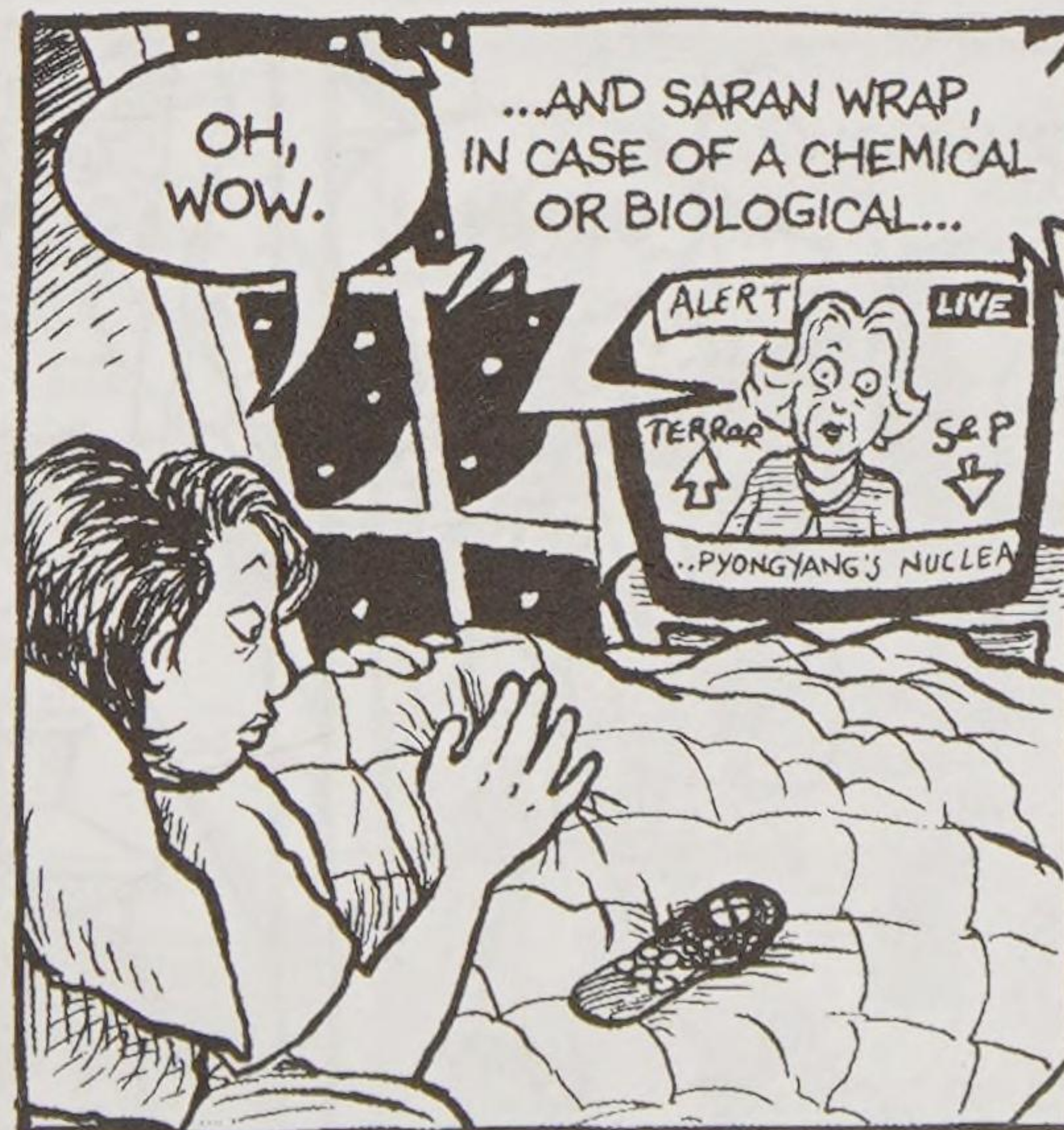
MY CELL'S DEAD,
BUT SOMEONE CAN
TRACK ME DOWN IF
YOU NEED ME.

DON'T WORRY. I'VE BEEN
HAVING SOME TWINGES,
BUT NOTHING UNUSUAL.
AND GINGER WILL BE
HOME SOON.

AS THE DEADLINE NEARS
FOR MALE VISITORS FROM
MUSLIM COUNTRIES TO REG-
ISTER WITH THE I.N.S., THERE
IS CONFUSION AND PANIC
IN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES.

OH, COME ON,
PEOPLE! LET'S
PICK IT UP!

UNDER THE PROPOSED
DOMESTIC SECURITY
ENHANCEMENT ACT...



this
brief
transit

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IT'S A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT.

GINGER? ARE
YOU JUST GET-
TING HOME?

IT TOOK ME THREE HOURS! I
SHOULD'VE STAYED AT SCHOOL
BUT I WAS AFRAID I MIGHT
MISS SOMETHING.

3/12

411

WHAT'RE YOU
GUYS DOING
OUTSIDE?

AND IF WE'RE ALL
OUT HERE, WHO'S
WITH SPARROW?

SKIS?

HUH. EITHER SHE FOUND
SOMEONE TO COME OVER,
OR WE'RE BEING BURGLED
BY A BIATHLETE.

SPARROW?

UUNNH!

STUART? OH, GOOD.
WASH YOUR HANDS AND
GET IN HERE! NOW!

NOWWW!

MEANWHILE...

I SHOULD'VE DONE THE SELF-EXAMS. I SHOULD'VE EATEN MORE GREENS. I SHOULD'VE ONLY USED MY CELL PHONE WITH A HEADSET.

HONEY, DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. CELL PHONES GIVE YOU **BRAIN** CANCER, NOT BREAST CANCER.

HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN? WHAT IF I DIE BEFORE MY BOOK COMES OUT?

SHHH.



YEEOW!

I'VE GOT A HEAD...AND A LEG...



OH, SHE'S MAGNIFICENT!



WELCOME, BABY! DO YOU HAVE A NAME?

I'VE BEEN LOBBYING FOR HANS BLIX, BUT NO ONE ELSE SEEMS TOO KEEN ON IT.

EHH!

METAPHOR AS ILLNESS

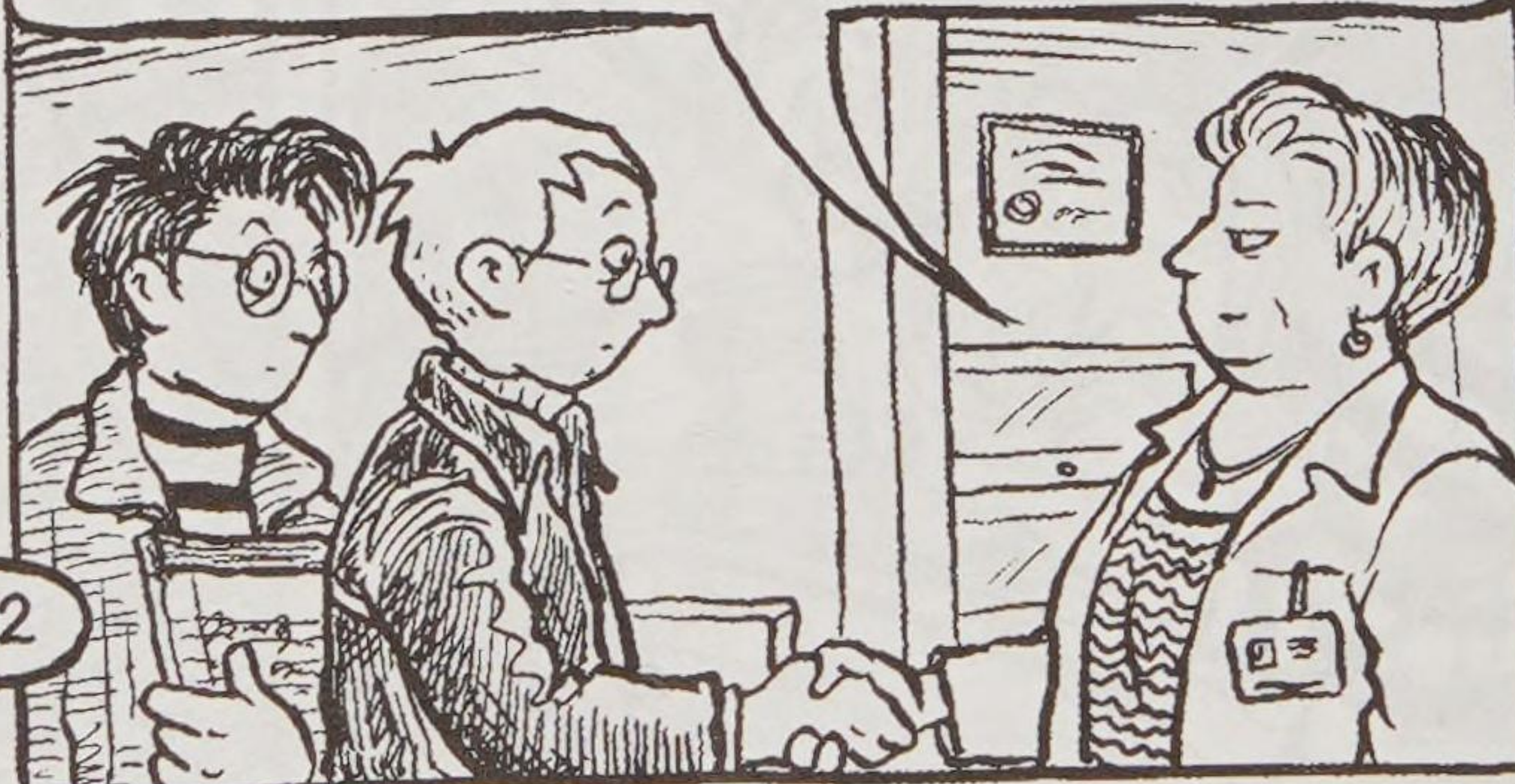
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SOME OF OUR FRIENDS ARE IN SHOCK...

THINK OVER THE OPTIONS WE DISCUSSED. BUT YOU NEED TO MAKE A DECISION SOON. WE DON'T WANT THOSE LITTLE TERRORISTS AMASSING ANY MORE RECRUITS BEFORE WE GO IN THERE TO WIPE THEM OUT.

3/26

412



A TIP O' THE NIB TO PAT FONTAINE

GOD, I'M GLAD YOU WERE TAKING NOTES. I COULDN'T FOCUS AT ALL.

CRIPES! WHERE'D SHE STUDY MEDICINE? THE **NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE?**



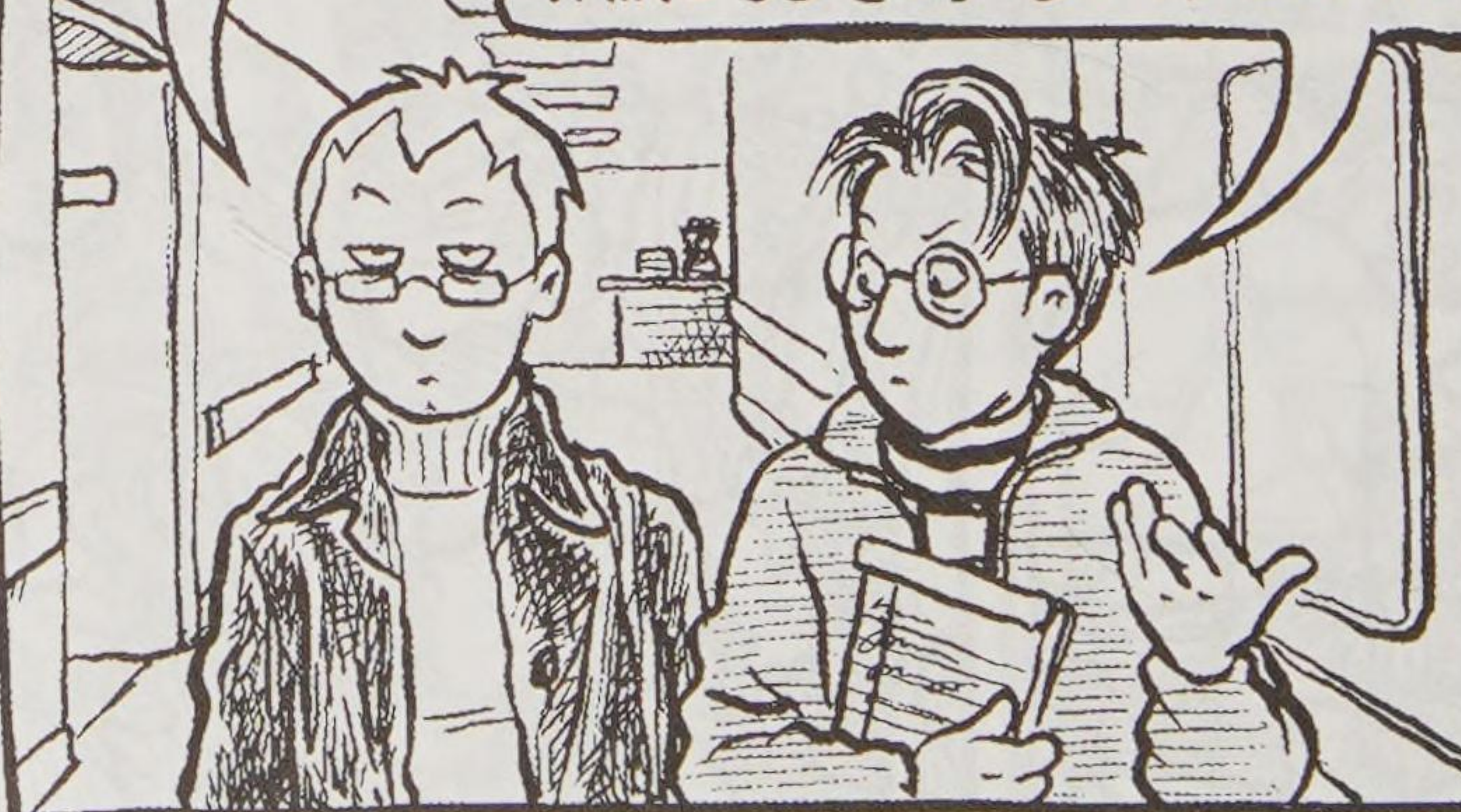
YOU DIDN'T LIKE HER?

SYDNEY, SHE HAS THE BEDSIDE MANNER OF GEORGE PATTON. I MEAN, GIVEN THAT THE GOAL HERE IS **HEALING**, I THINK A MORE NON-VIOLENT APPROACH MIGHT BE ADVISABLE.

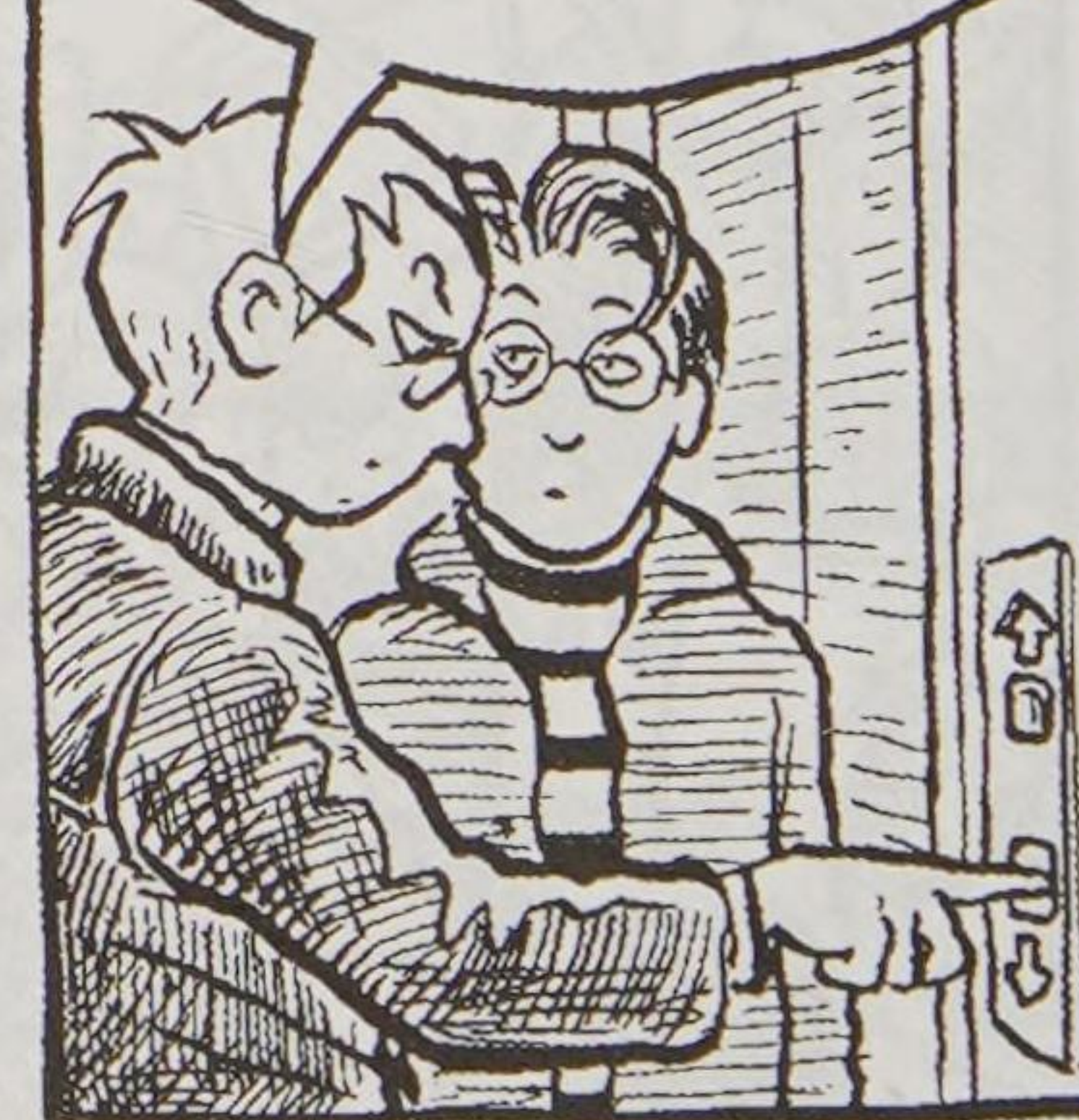


I DON'T THINK U.N. RESOLUTIONS WORK ON CANCER.

I'M JUST SAYING, THAT IMAGE OF GOING TO BATTLE AGAINST YOUR OWN BODY IS REALLY NEGATIVE. THERE'S SOMETHING SO **CUT-OFF** ABOUT IT.



YEAH, WELL, I THINK THAT'S THE GENERAL IDEA OF A LUMPECTOMY.

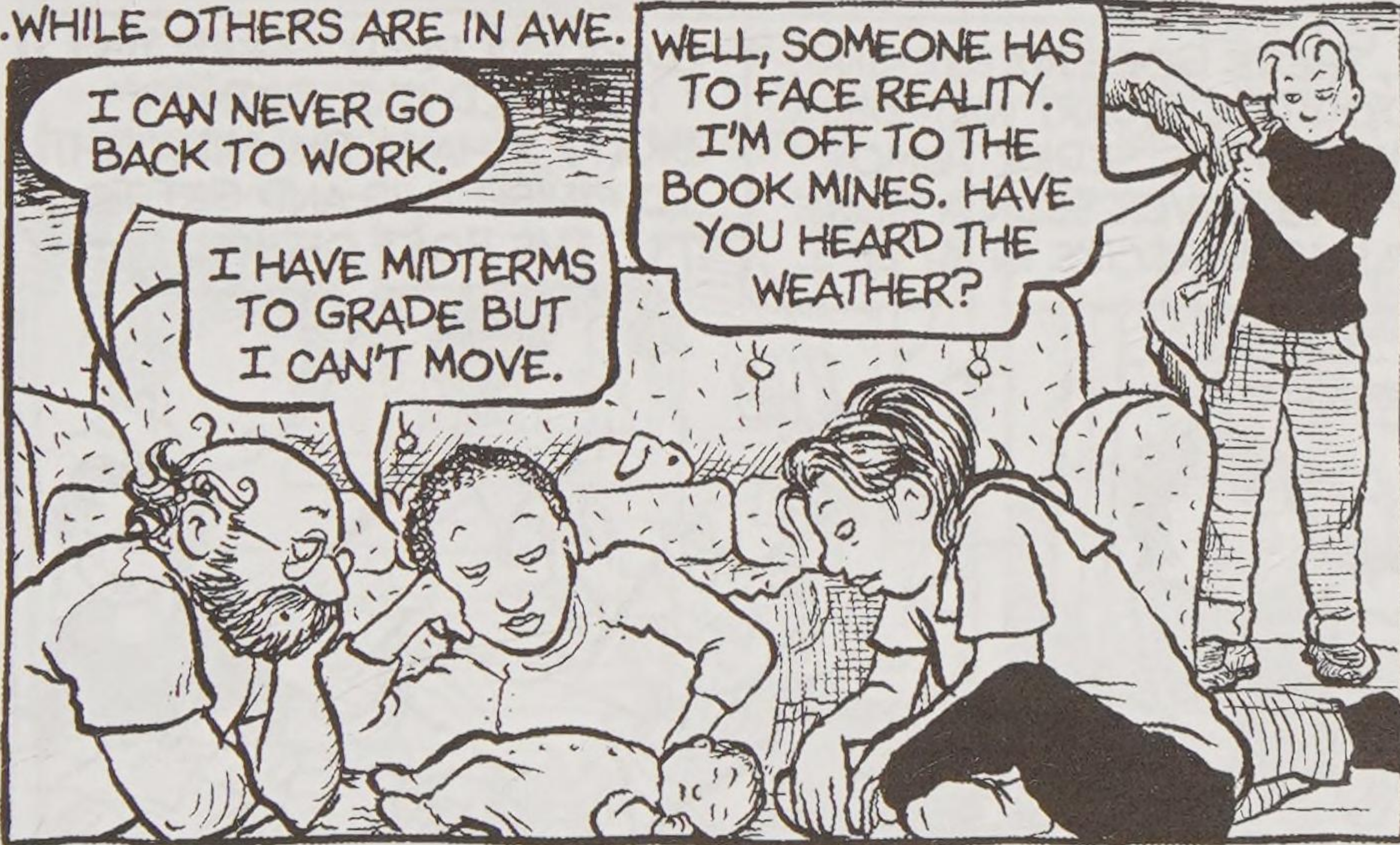


..WHILE OTHERS ARE IN AWE.

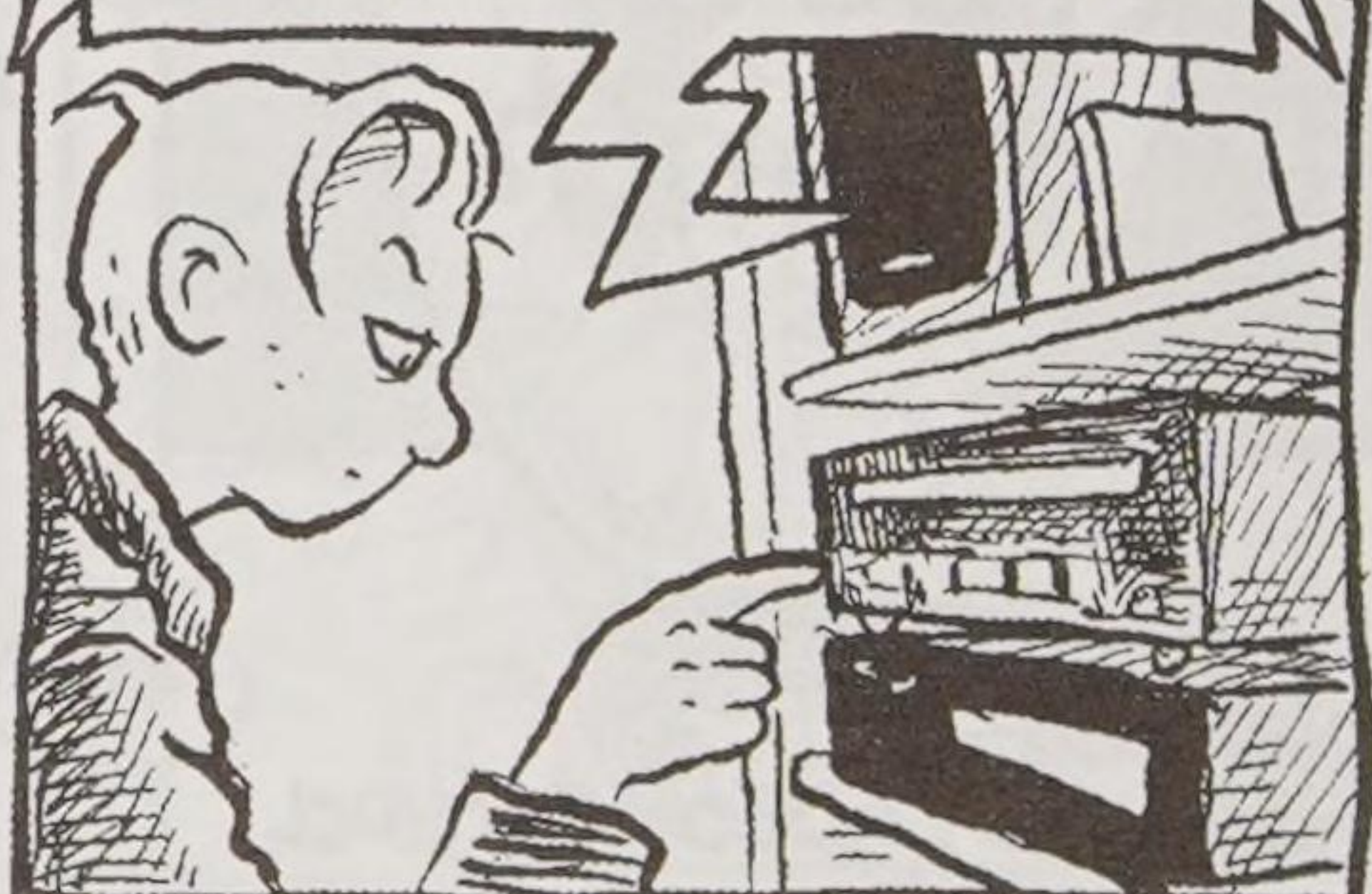
I CAN NEVER GO BACK TO WORK.

I HAVE MIDTERMS TO GRADE BUT I CAN'T MOVE.

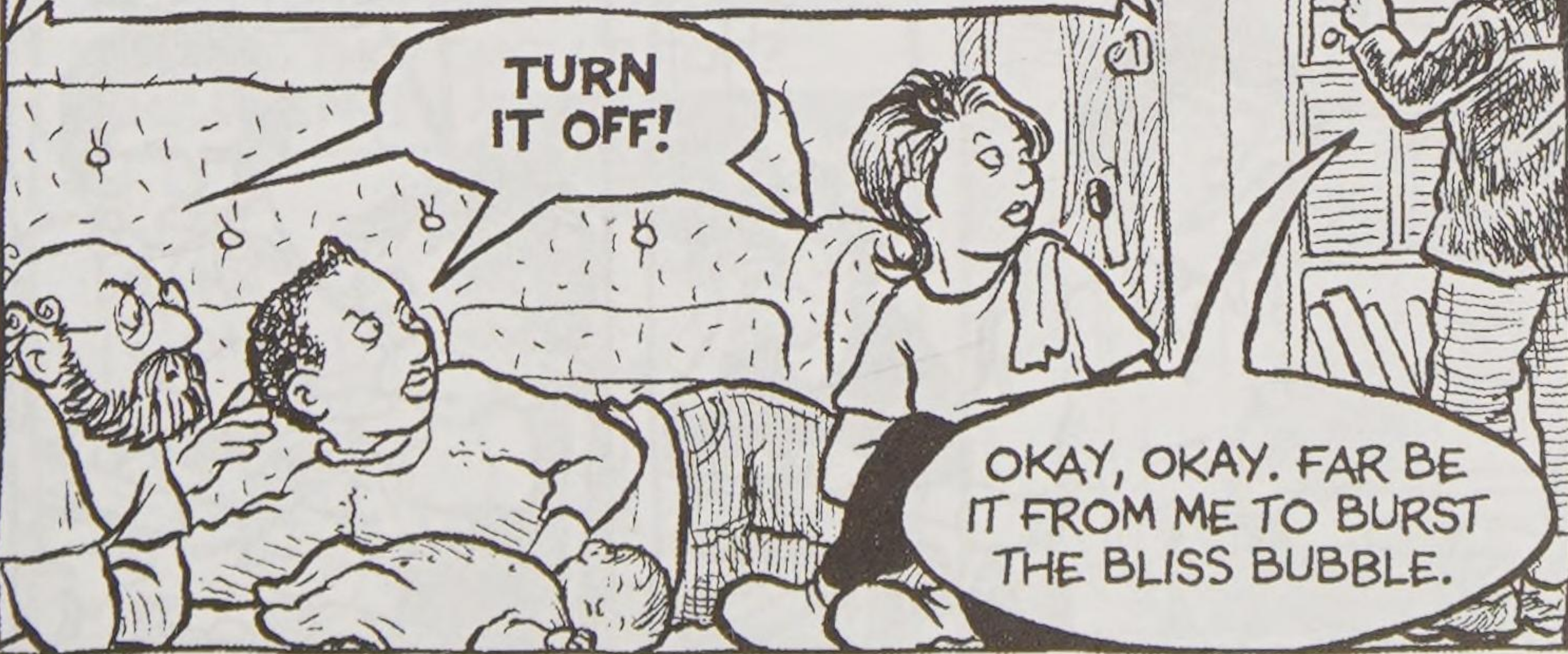
WELL, SOMEONE HAS TO FACE REALITY. I'M OFF TO THE BOOK MINES. HAVE YOU HEARD THE WEATHER?



...THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A "SURGICAL" INVASION. SOME PEOPLE SAY SADDAM IS A CANCER THE WORLD NEEDS TO BE RID OF. BUT SOMETIMES THE TREATMENT CAN BE WORSE THAN THE DISEASE.

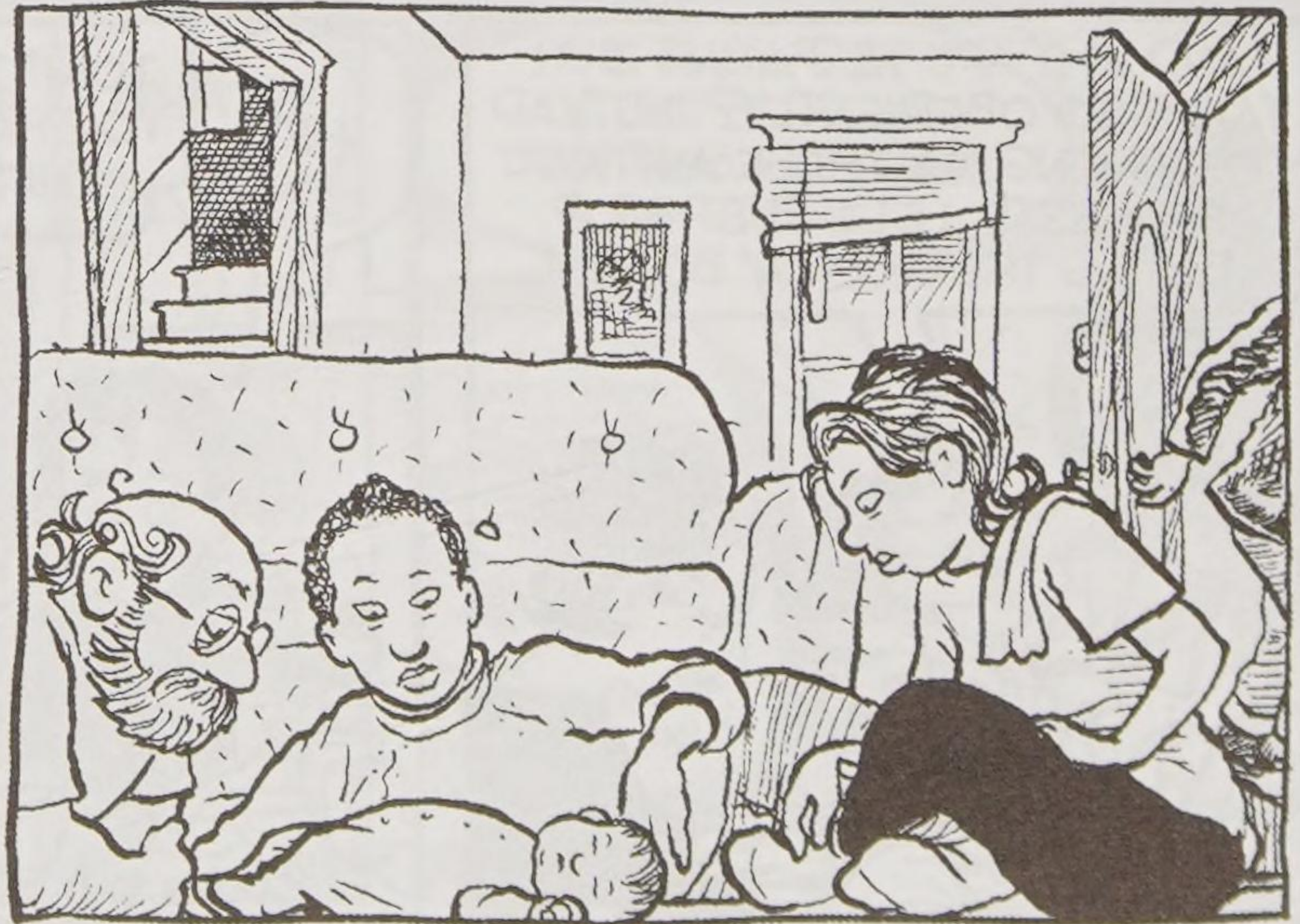


AND DON'T FORGET THE ACTUAL CANCER OF WAR, THE THOUSANDS OF IRAQI CHILDREN WITH LEUKEMIA FROM EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM SHELLS USED BY THE U.S. IN THE 1991--



TURN IT OFF!

OKAY, OKAY. FAR BE IT FROM ME TO BURST THE BLISS BUBBLE.



the cruellest month

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4/9

413

FEELING A TAD
ANXIOUS LATELY
ABOUT THE
PROSPECT OF
LIFE UNDER
TOTALITARIAN
RULE IN A TOXIC,
POST-
APOCALYPTIC
WASTELAND?

SO'S
CLARICE!

WELL, THERE GOES MY EVENING.
WHY'D YOU TELL STUART WE'D BRING
TSIMMES TO THE SEDER TOMOR-
ROW? I'VE NEVER SEEN A MORE
COMPLICATED RECIPE IN MY LIFE.

CLARICE, I REALLY NEED YOU
TO HOLD IT TOGETHER,
OKAY? I HAVE TILL MIDNIGHT
TO FINISH THIS AND GET TO
THE POST OFFICE.



AND WHY ARE WE PAYING OUR
TAXES SO OBEDIENTLY? INSTEAD
OF HAVING ALL THESE ANTIWAR
PROTESTS, LET'S JUST STOP
BUYING THE FRICKIN' BOMBS!



HEY!

TONI! I THOUGHT
YOU HARD BOILED
THESE EGGS!

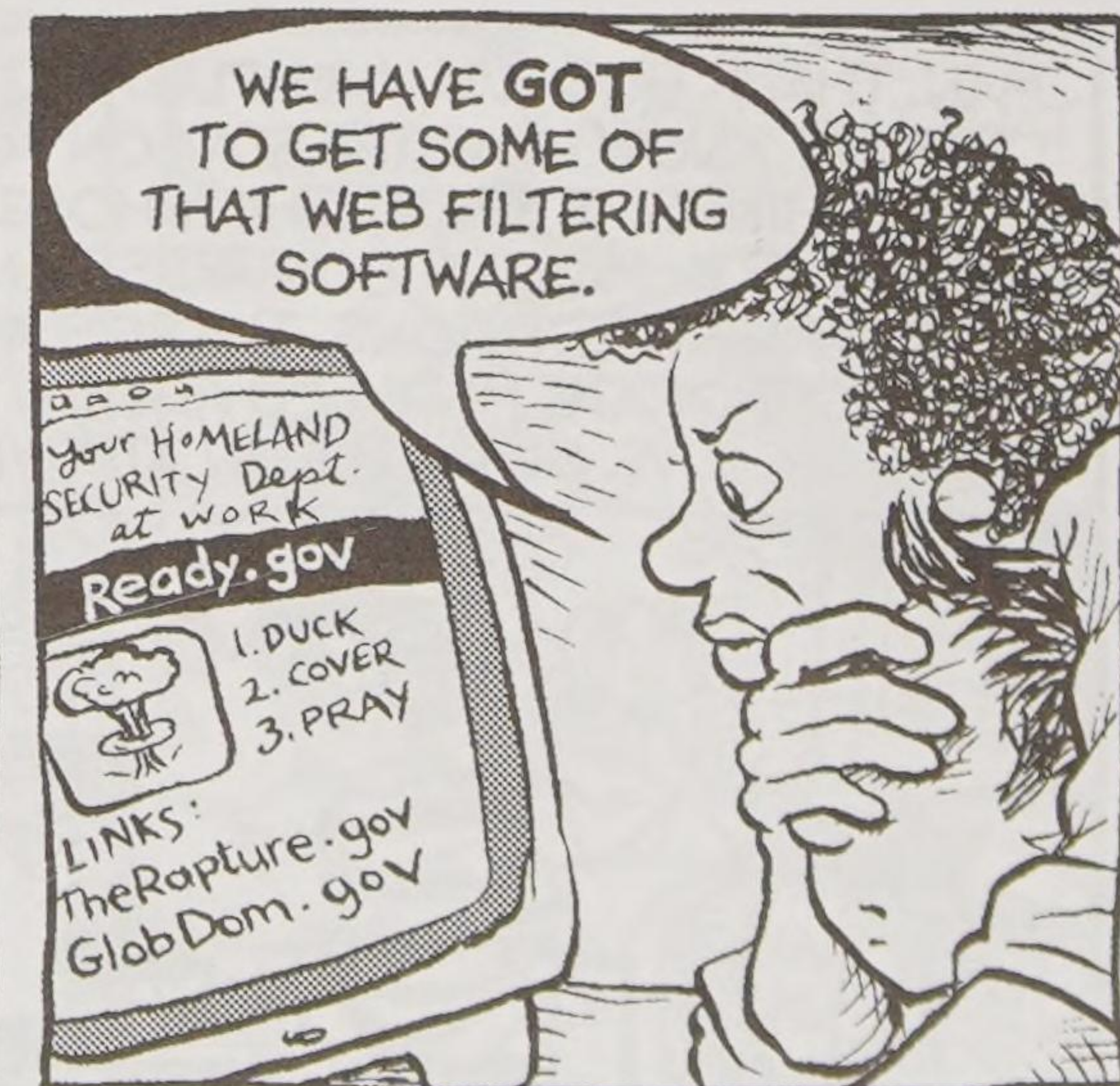
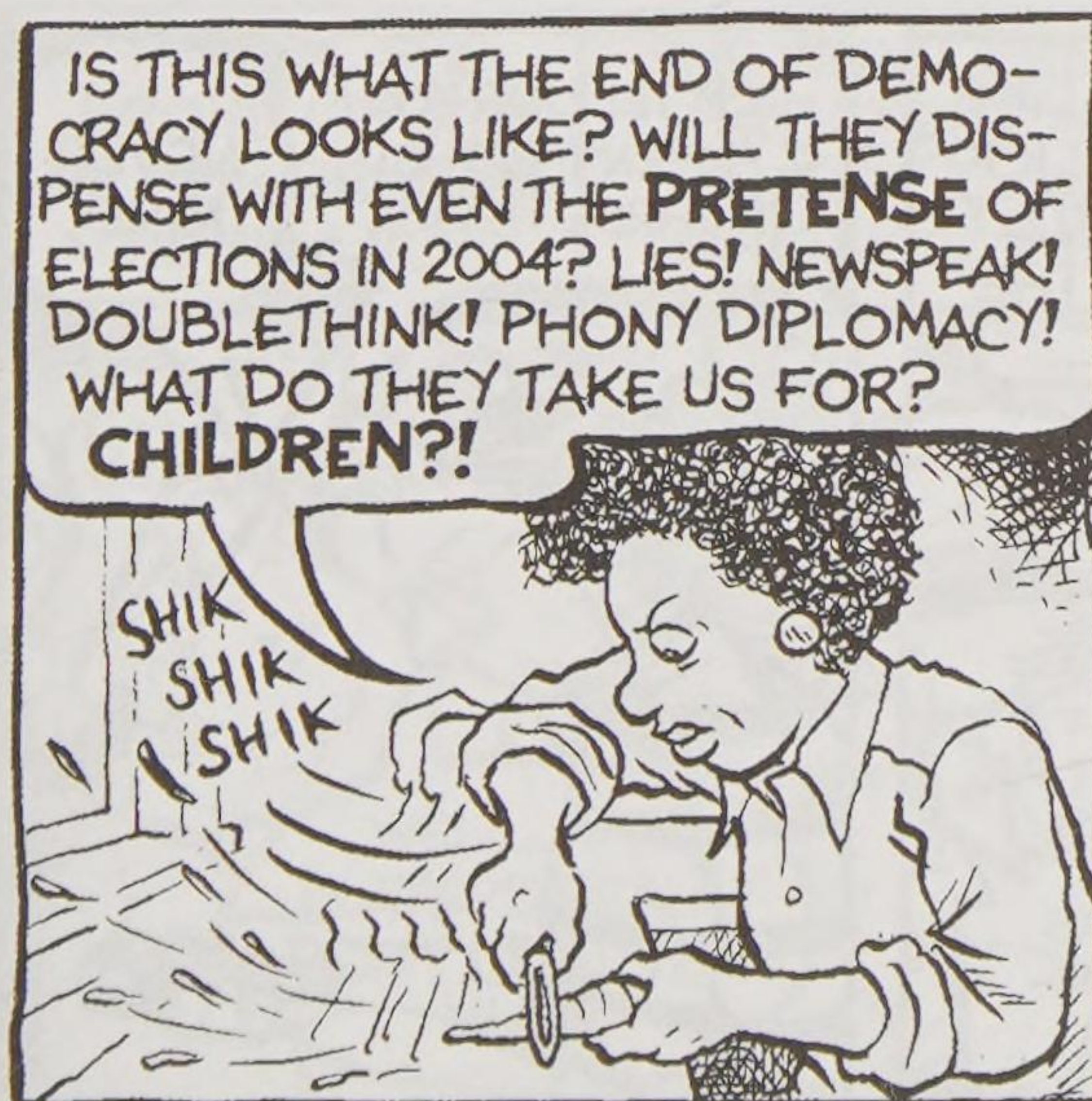
I HARD BOILED THE ONES
IN THE CARTON THAT SAYS
"HARD BOILED" IN LARGE
BLOCK LETTERS.



splat!

SO ALL THESE
ONES I COLORED
ARE RUINED?





media- tion

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4/23

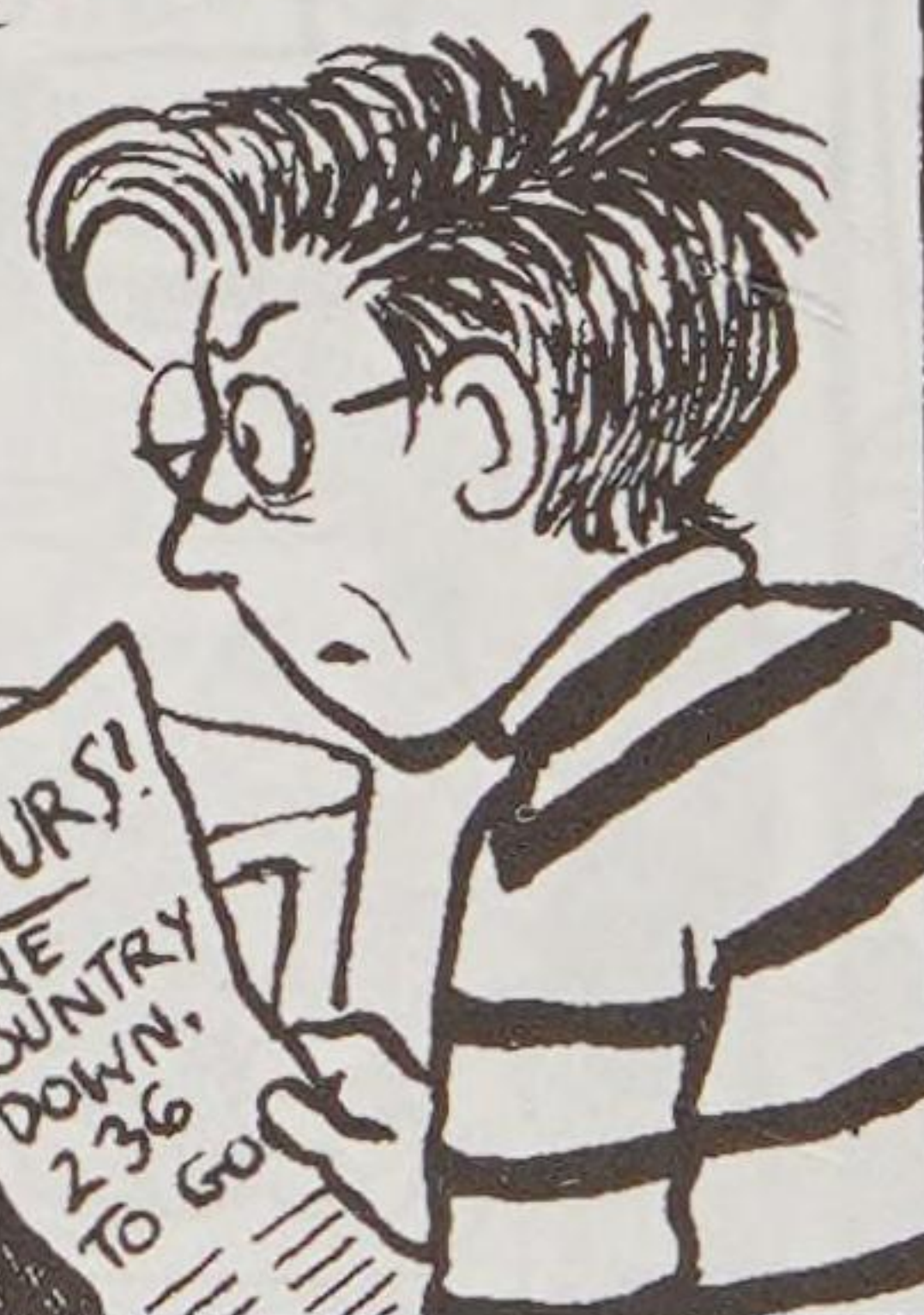
414

COMING UP NEXT, COALITION
FORCES SHELL A HARDENED
PLATOON OF NON-COALITION
JOURNALISTS.

**KNOCK!
KNOCK!**



VICTORY IS OURS!
ONE
COUNTRY
DOWN.
236
TO GO



HI,
HARRIET.

HI. I JUST THOUGHT
I'D STOP IN AND SEE
HOW YOU'RE DOING.



MAN. THANK GOD I'M UNEMPLOYED, OR
I DON'T KNOW HOW I'D STAY ON TOP
OF THINGS. I SPENT THE WHOLE
MORNING E-MAILING CONGRESS AND
FORWARDING PETITIONS. THERE'S ALL
THIS CORPORATE MEDIA COVERAGE TO
MONITOR. I'VE GOT A DIE-IN AT FIVE...



UH...I MEANT,
HOW ARE YOU
DOING ABOUT
SYDNEY.



HANG ON. IT SOUNDS LIKE
ONE OF THESE BOOT-LICK-
ING EMBEDS IS ACTUALLY
GONNA TALK ABOUT THE
CIVILIAN CARNAGE...



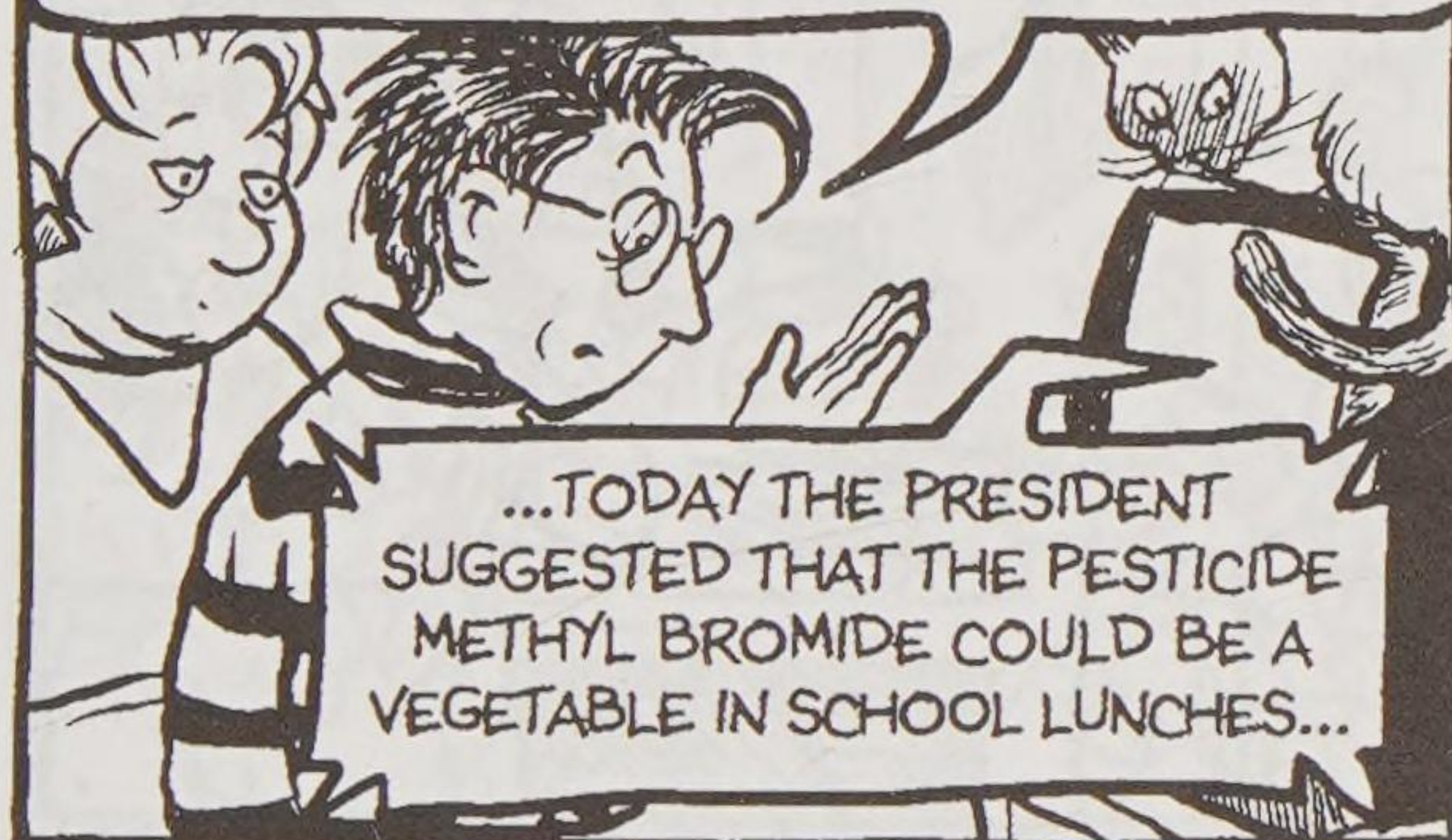
THE SITUATION IS TERRIBLE HERE. AS
AN AMERICAN, I'M EXTREMELY UNCOM-
FORTABLE. IT'S ... WELL, IT'S SICKENING...

...I'M TELLING YOU,
I HAVEN'T BATHED
IN THREE WEEKS.

NEVER
MIND.



LOOK AT THIS. BUSH HAS CREATED SUCH A DIVERSION IN IRAQ, NOBODY NOTICES THE DOMESTIC SITUATION. HE'S USING HIS TAX CUTS AND HIS WAR TAB TO STARVE THE GOVERNMENT. HE'S RE-INSTITUTING FEUDALISM!



HELLO? WHAT ABOUT **YOUR** DOMESTIC SITUATION? YOUR LOVER'S HAVING SURGERY NEXT WEEK!



HI, SYDNEY.

GREAT. WHAT HAVE YOU BOUGHT NOW?



Y'KNOW, SHE BROKE UP WITH ME FOR BRINGING HOME A VCR.

SHE WON'T BREAK UP WITH ME! I HAVE CANCER! I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT.

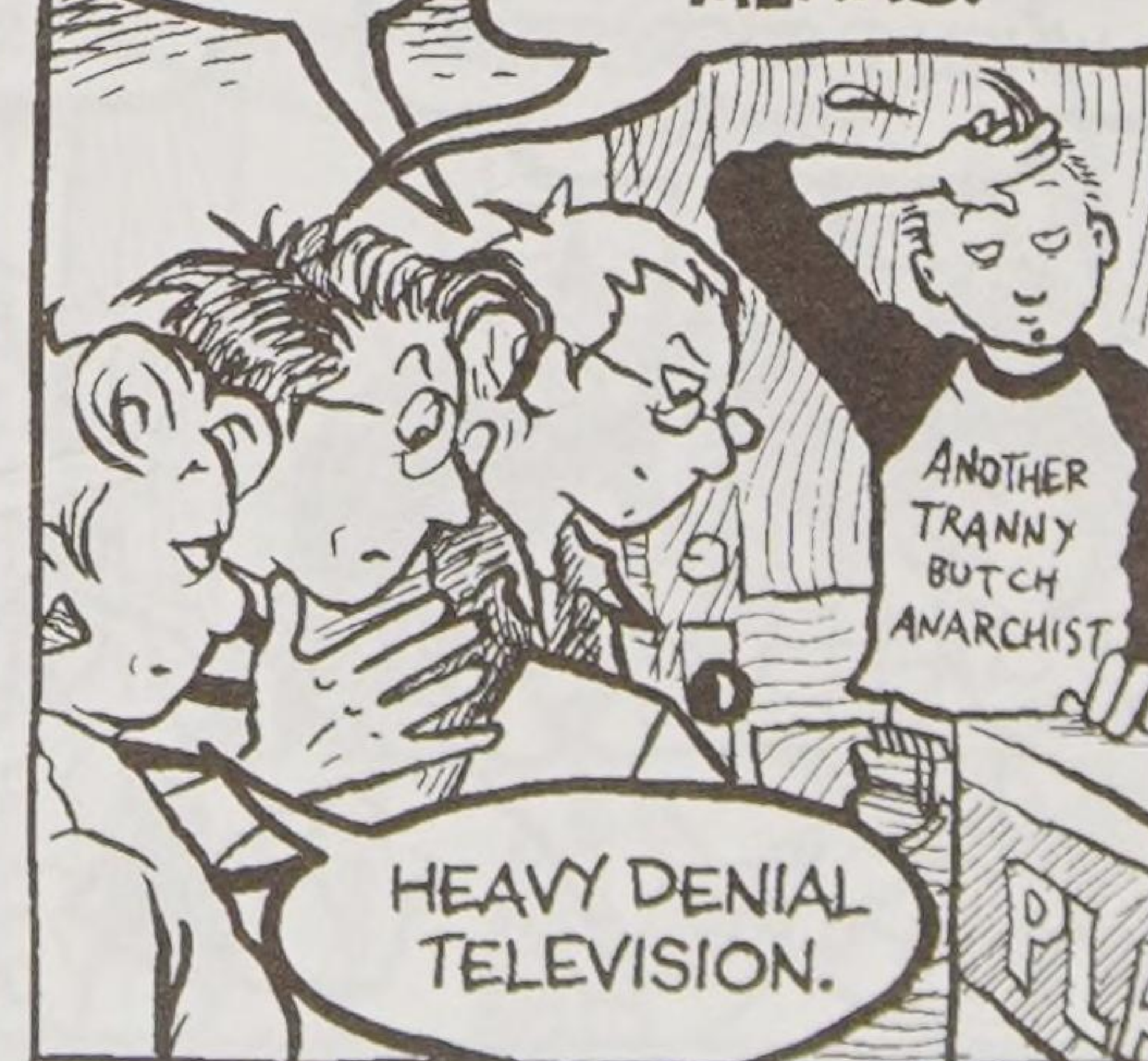


WHERE SHOULD WE PUT IT, DR. K?



HDTV, BABY!

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.



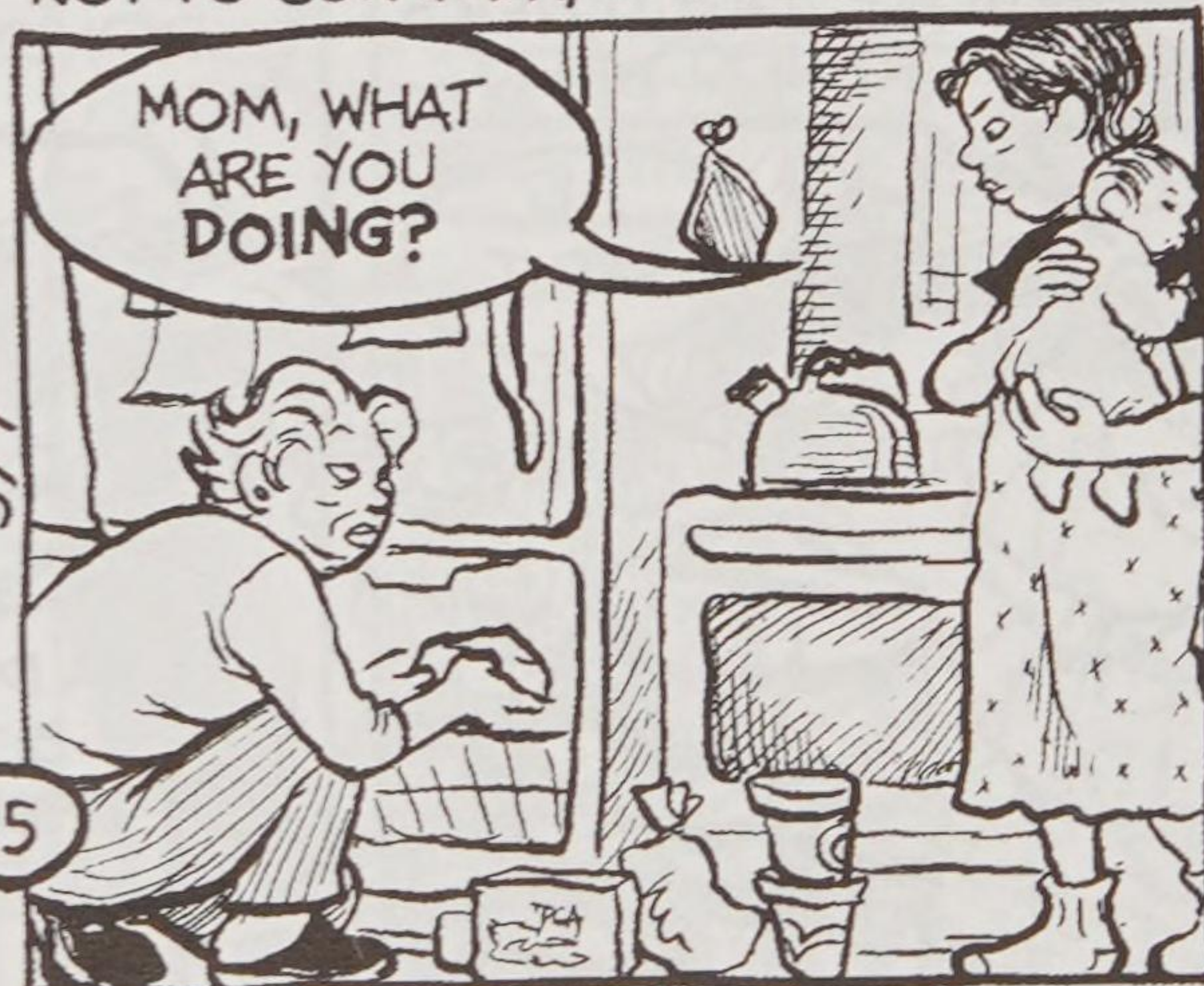
reflux redux

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SPARROW'S PARENTS HAVE INVADED--
NOT TO CONQUER, BUT TO LIBERATE.

5/7

415



A TIP O' THE UMBILICUS TO VESA LEHTINEN

JUST TIDYING UP. YOUR
FREEZER'S A MESS. I THOUGHT
WE COULD HAVE THIS NICE
ROAST FOR DINNER.

ROAST?



THAT'S MY PLACENTA!
I'M SAVING IT TO
BURY IN THE GARDEN
WHEN THE GROUND
THAWS!

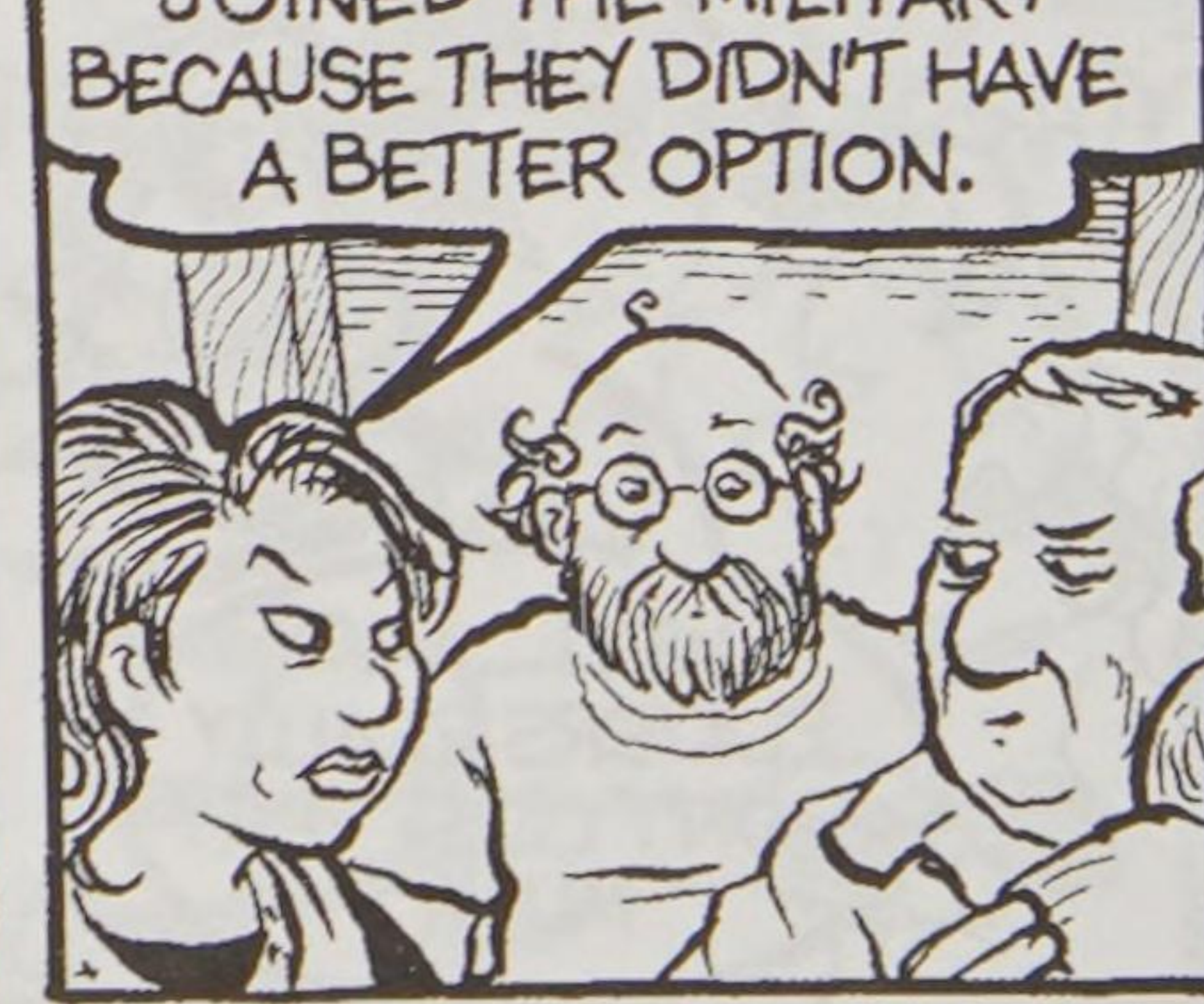
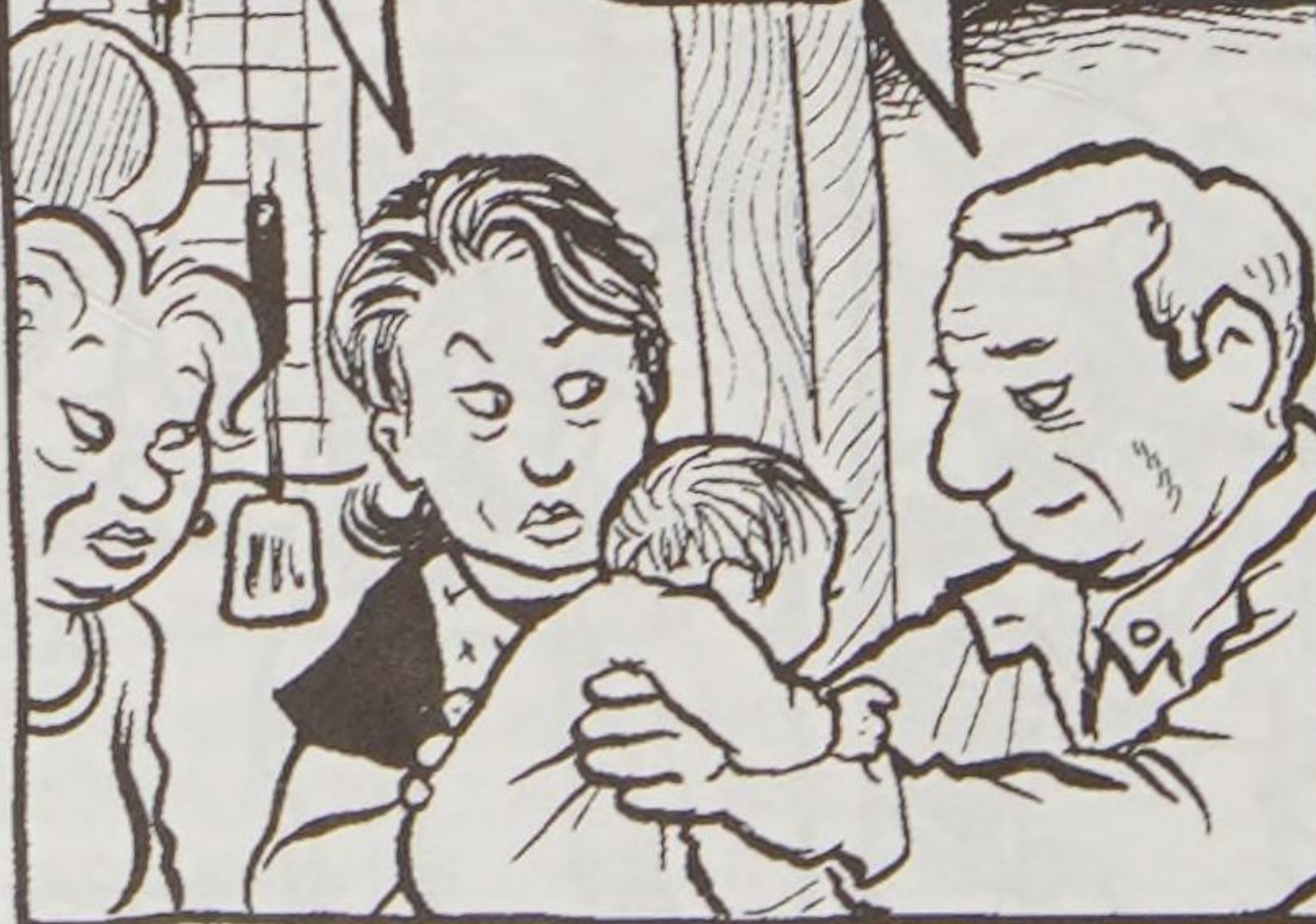
SWEETHEART, I'M GONNA
RAKE THE YARD, SO I
TOOK THIS RIDICULOUS
SIGN DOWN.

NO WAR
ON IRAQ

WILL YOU TWO
PLEASE STOP
TRYING TO
HELP?!

MAYBE YOU MISSED
THE NEWS--THE
WAR'S OVER AND WE
WON. C'MERE TO
GRANDPA, BABY.

DADDY, NOBODY WON ANY-
THING. A LOT OF INNOCENT
IRAQIS WERE MAIMED AND
SLAUGHTERED, ALONG WITH
SOME AMERICAN KIDS WHO
JOINED THE MILITARY
BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE
A BETTER OPTION.



HEY. YOU DIDN'T SUPPORT THOSE SOLDIERS WHEN THEY WERE ALIVE. DON'T INSULT THEM NOW. THEY DIED FOR FREEDOM.

THEY WERE SOLD A BILL OF GOODS, JUST LIKE YOU. THE ONLY FREEDOM THEY DIED FOR IS THE FREEDOM OF THE DEFENSE INDUSTRY BILLIONAIRES WHO DICTATE OUR FOREIGN POLICY TO MAKE MORE **MONEY**.

JIM!

HOW'S MY LITTLE JIAO RAIZEL? ARE MOMMY AND GRANDPA UP-SETTING YOU?

FACE IT, KID. YOU'RE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF HISTORY ON THIS ONE.

HISTORY'S A LITTLE LONGER THAN THE NEWS CYCLE, DADDY. BE CAREFUL! SHE'S TOO LITTLE TO--

HELL, SHE LOVES IT. WE CODDLED YOU TOO MUCH, THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM. YOU'RE GONNA BE A TOUGH LITTLE COOKIE, AREN'T YOU? NOT SOFT-MINDED LIKE YOUR MOTHER.

Splot!

WATCH OUT FOR THAT BLOWBACK. IT'LL GET YOU EVERY TIME.

the basic anxiety

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5/21

416

I KINDA WISH THEY WERE
LOPPING THE WHOLE THING
OFF. JUST TO BE SURE.

GIRLS,
CAN I GET
IN THERE?

MOM, GO BACK TO SLEEP. YOU
DON'T HAVE TO GO WITH US. YOU
CAN DRIVE OVER WHEN I COME
OUT OF SURGERY.

CAN'T WE LOP
YOUR MOTHER
OFF INSTEAD?

NOK!
NOK!

IF YOUR FATHER'S GOING
TO BE THERE, SO AM I. I
DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY
AND MISS MY CONFERENCE
JUST TO SLEEP IN.

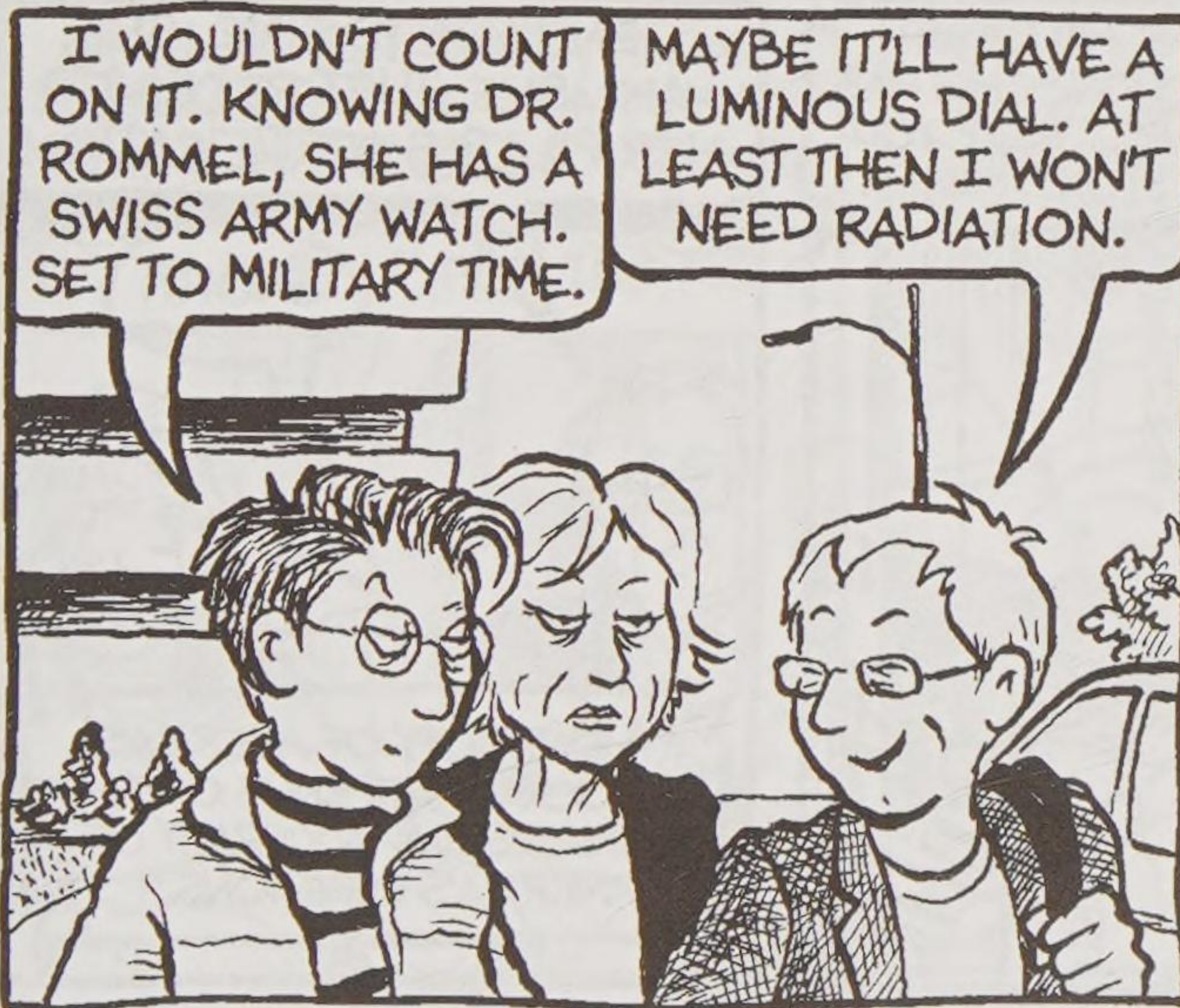
WHAT WAS THAT
CONFERENCE
AGAIN? REFRESH
MY MEMORY.

"BUDDHISM, PSYCHO-
THERAPY, AND COM-
PASSION." I DON'T
KNOW WHY YOU FIND
THAT SO AMUSING.

SHE'S LIKE A
MOTHER TO
ME. SORT OF.

WHAT IF SOMETHING GOES
WRONG WITH THE ANESTHESIA
AND I GET BRAIN DAMAGE?
WHAT IF THE SURGEON LEAVES
HER ROLEX INSIDE ME?





I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT. KNOWING DR. ROMMEL, SHE HAS A SWISS ARMY WATCH. SET TO MILITARY TIME.

MAYBE IT'LL HAVE A LUMINOUS DIAL. AT LEAST THEN I WON'T NEED RADIATION.



JOKING IS AN AVOIDANCE STRATEGY, SYDNEY. TRY TO FACE YOUR FEARS DIRECTLY.



LOOK, THERE'S DADDY!

I'M GOING TO STAY OUT HERE AND HAVE A CIGARETTE. I'LL BE IN IN A MINUTE.

SOME TIME LATER...

... THERE'LL BE A DRAIN IN THE INCISION WHEN YOU WAKE UP. AND DON'T WORRY IF YOU PEE BLUE FOR A WHILE. IT'S JUST THE DYE WE USED TO STAIN THE TUMOR.



KER...KRU... CRUTCHOFFSKI, BREAST CONSERVATION?



HOW ARE WE FEELING?

A BIT LIKE AN ENDANGERED WETLAND.



I WISH IT WERE ME INSTEAD OF YOU.

YEAH. I'M GETTING THE SODIUM PENTOTHAL. YOU HAVE TO GO SIT WITH MY PARENTS.

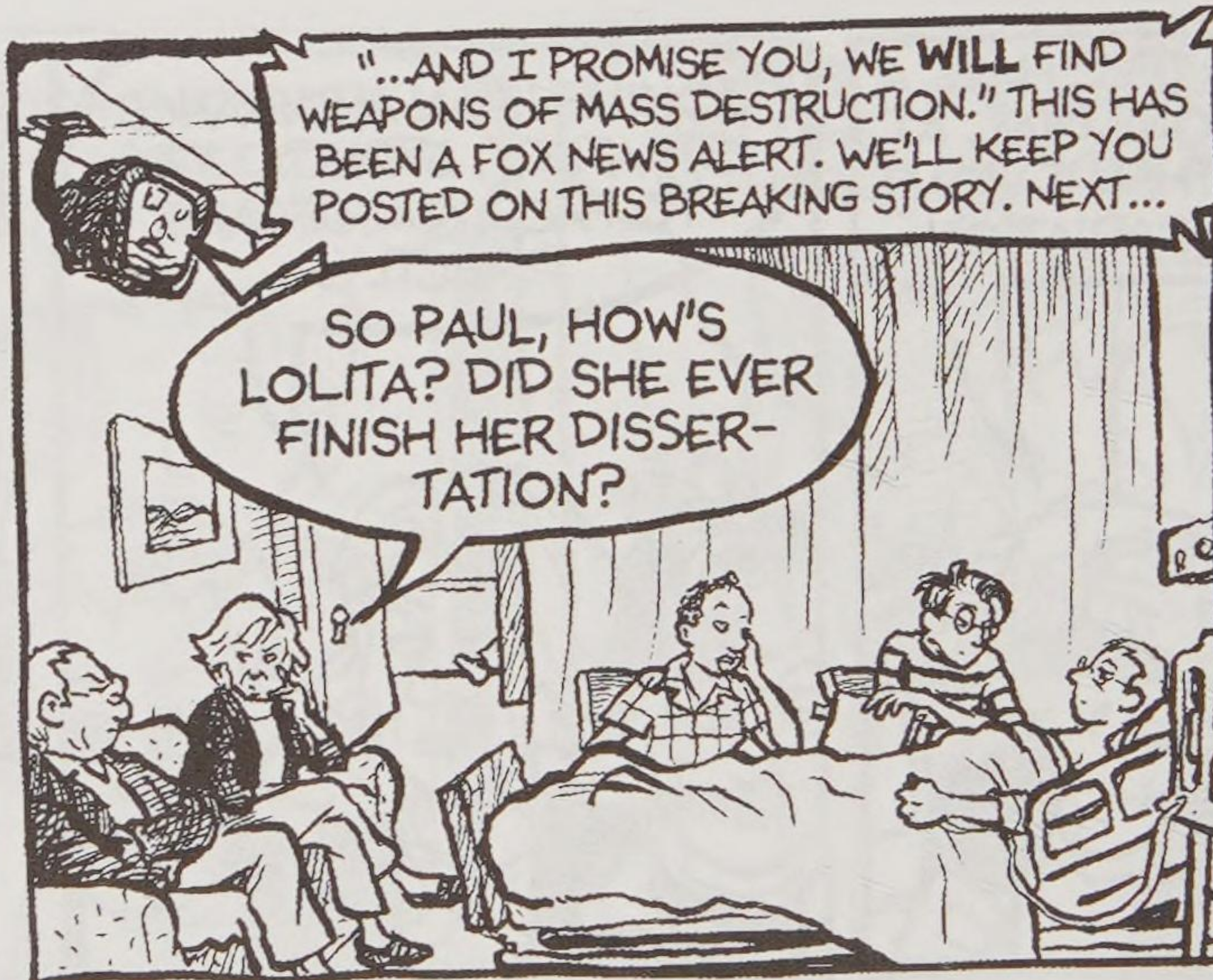
pump it up

6/4

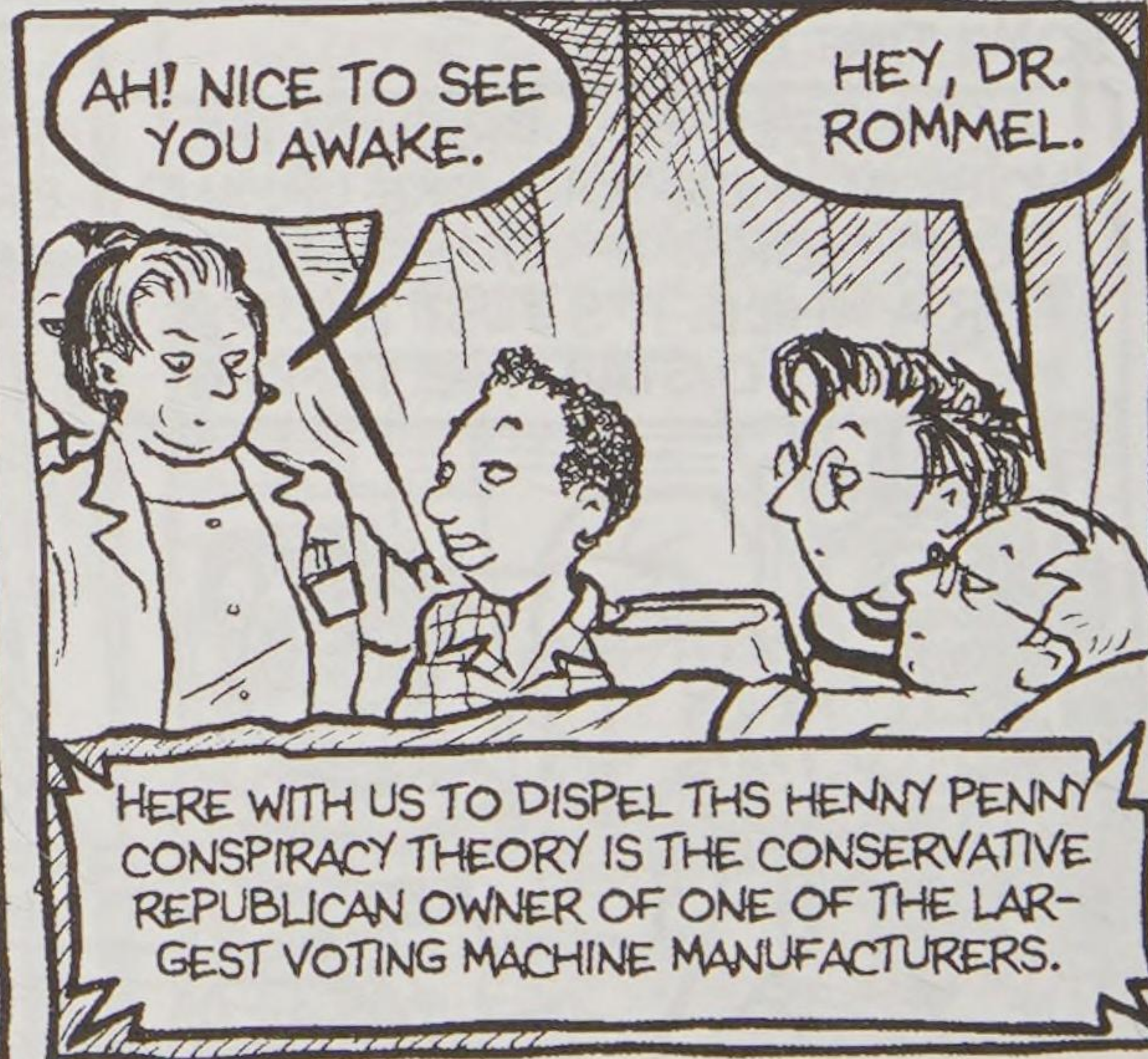
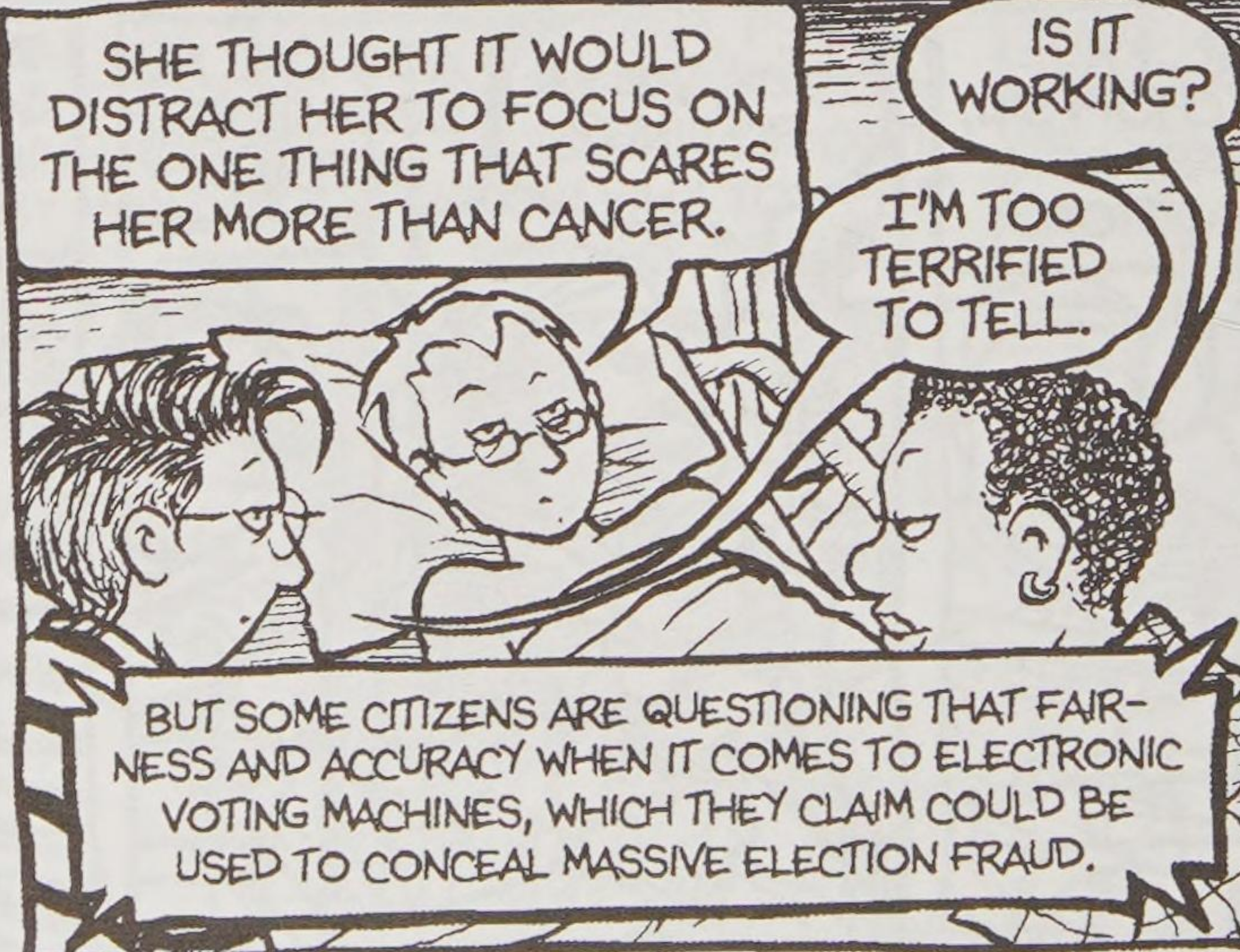
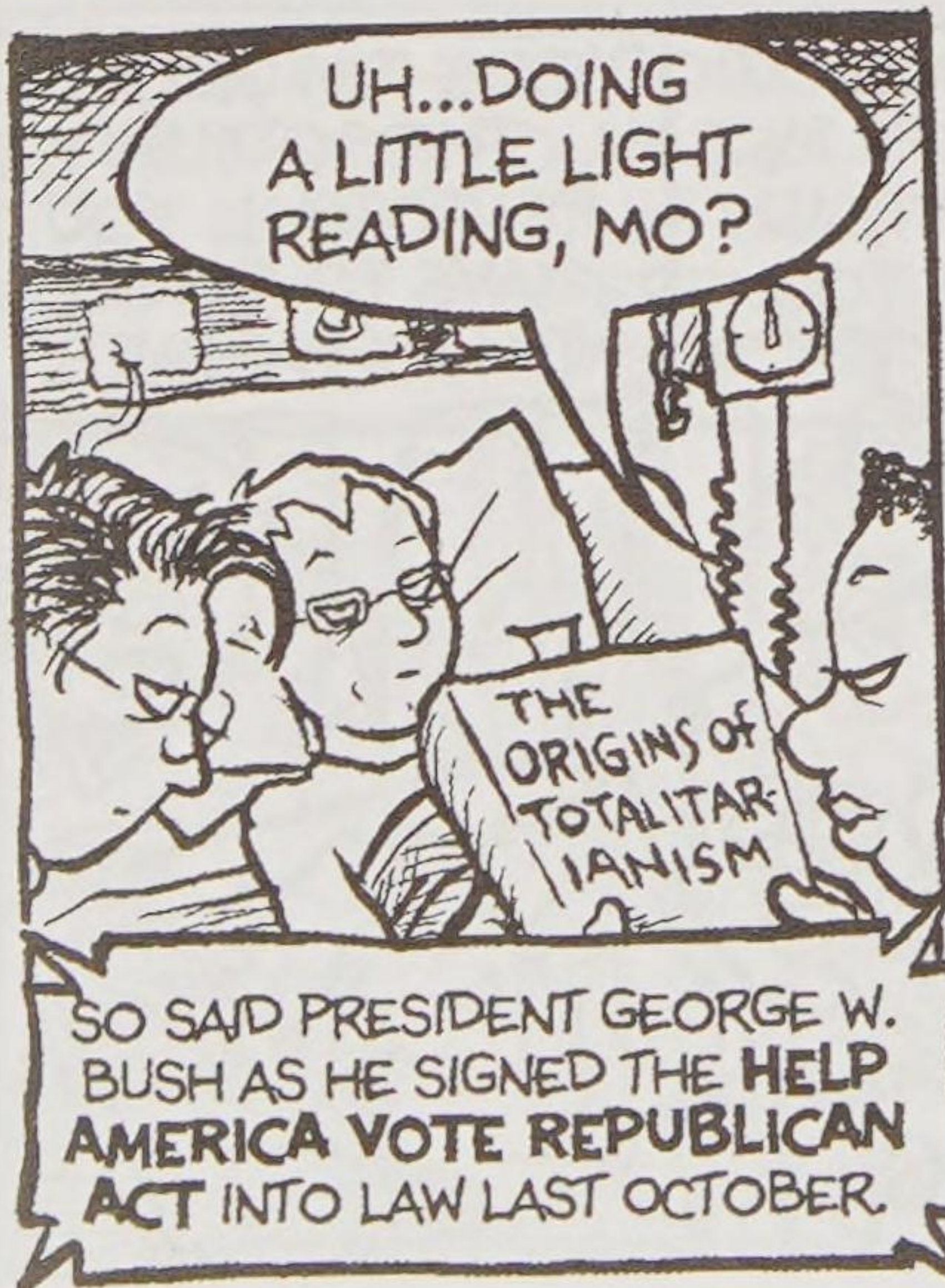
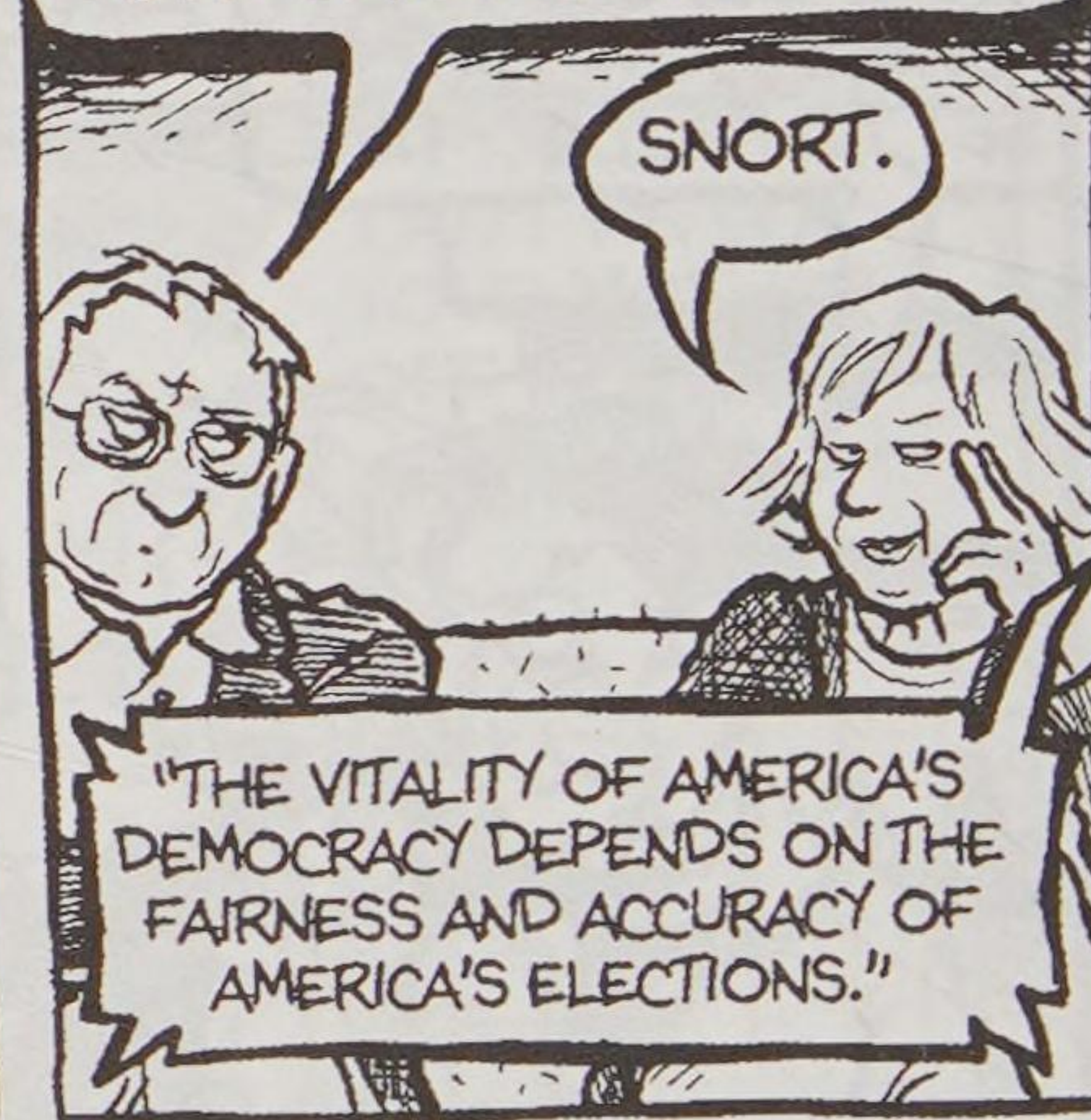
417

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SYDNEY MADE IT THROUGH SURGERY. BUT WILL SHE SURVIVE HER MALIGNANT PARENTS AND THE MIASMAL FOG OF CABLE NEWS?



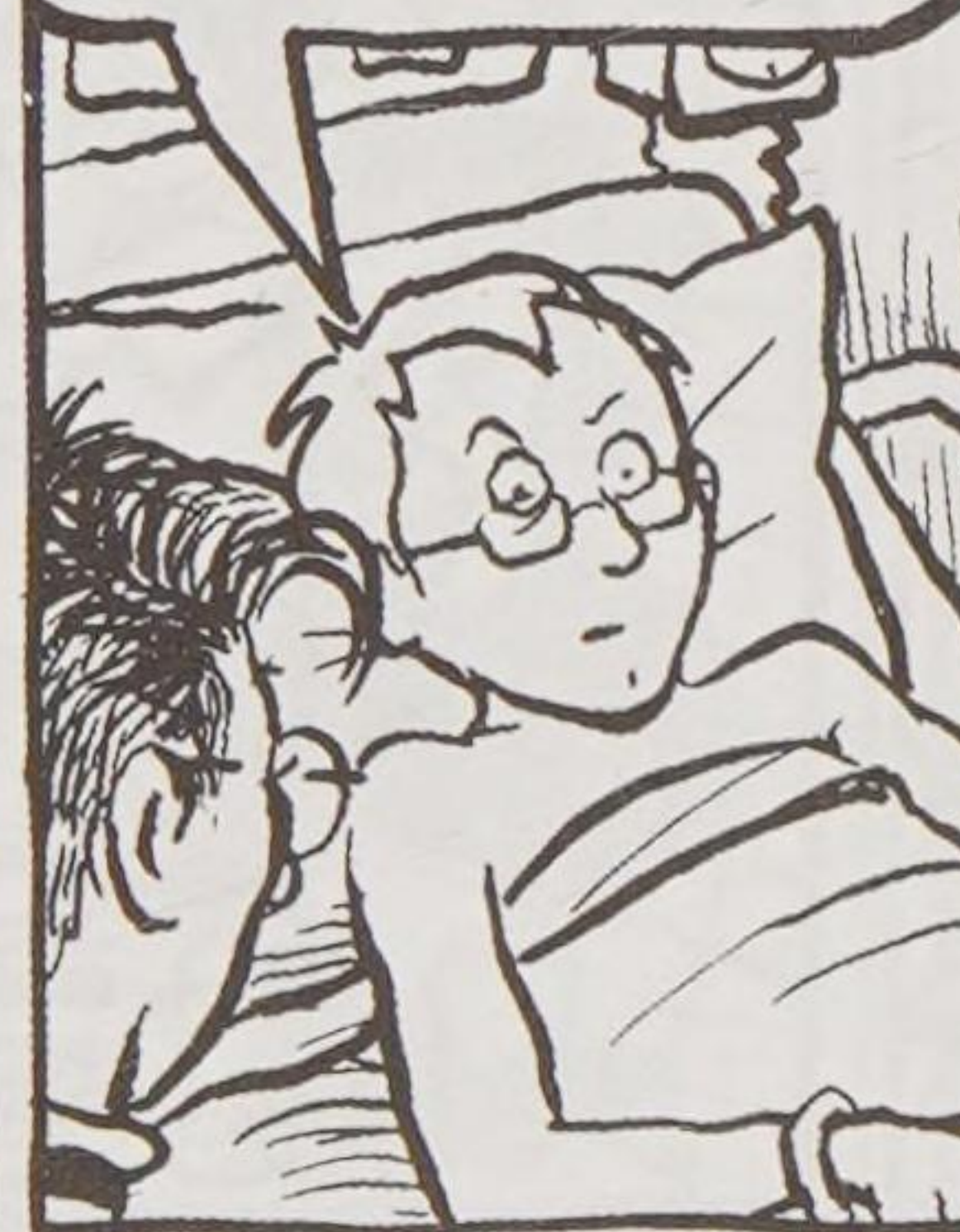
JENNIFER IS FINE. SHE, AH...SHE JUST RECEIVED HER PILATES CERTIFICATION.



WELL, I GOT GOOD, CLEAR MARGINS. BUT WE WON'T KNOW HOW MEAN THE CELLS ARE UNTIL WE SEE THE PATHOLOGY. I WANT YOU TO REST UP FOR THE FIGHT.



GOD FOR HARRY, ENGLAND AND SAINT GEORGE! TO THE BREACH! TO THE **BREACH!**



UM...CHECK HER MORPHINE PUMP, NURSE.

SHE'S AS LUCID AS I AM. THAT'S "HENRY THE FIFTH."



THE PUMP'S FINE. GO AHEAD AND HIT IT AS SOON AS YOU FEEL ANY PAIN.



SO GINGER, YOU USED TO TEACH WITH SYDNEY AT THE UNIVERSITY?

YEAH. ENGLISH LIT. NOW I'M AT BUFFALO LAKE STATE.

THE STATE COLLEGES PRODUCE A FINE SCHOLAR NOW AND THEN. I DON'T KNOW IF SYD MENTIONED, I'M CHAIR OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT CHICAGO UNIVERSITY.



SHE TOLD ME YOU JUST RETIRED.

AND SHE TOLD ME YOU'VE GOT YOUR SHOPLIFTING UNDER CONTROL. I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.



THIS THING IS GREAT. TOO BAD I DIDN'T HAVE ONE WHEN I WAS GROWING UP.



BEEP

the legacy continues

6/18

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...THAT WAS ESA-PEKKA SALONEN CONDUCTING THE SWEDISH RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA...

ENUFFA THIS CRAP, MOM. TIME FOR MY STATION.



...AWAITING THE HIGH COURT'S UPCOMING RULINGS ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND SODOMY. TODAY'S **FCC** DECISION IN FAVOR OF MEDIA GIANTS HAS BEEN A BOON TO ALL MANKIND...



WHAT'S AFFIRMATIVE ACTION?

GOOD QUESTION, RAFFI.

...EXCEPT FOR THE PART WHERE THEY RE-REGULATE THE RADIO INDUSTRY, BASED ON THE ABSURD CLAIM...

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IS A WAY TO GIVE CERTAIN PEOPLE A CHANCE TO DO THINGS THAT THEY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE ON THEIR OWN IN AN UNFAIR WORLD.



...THAT OWNERSHIP HAS BECOME TOO CONCENTRATED. I'M RICH WHITE, CLEAR CHANNEL WORLD-WIDE NEWS.

FOR EXAMPLE, PRESIDENT BUSH WASN'T AS SMART AS LOTS OF OTHER APPLICANTS TO YALE, BUT THEY LET HIM IN ANYWAY BECAUSE HIS DAD AND GRAMPA WENT THERE.



AND THESE ARE YOUR CLEAR CHANNEL CLASSIC ROCK STATIONS, FROM 89.6 TO 108.3 ON THE RADIO DIAL.

HIS RICH DAD ALSO USED AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO KEEP GEORGE OUT OF VIETNAM, AND EVENTUALLY TO GET HIM INTO POLITICS. SO NOW, AS PRESIDENT, HE CAN HELP OTHER RICH PEOPLE BY GIVING THEM HUMONGOUS TAX CUTS! IT'S AN EXPANDING CIRCLE OF OPPORTUNITY!



YOU'RE MESSING WITH MY HEAD AGAIN, RIGHT?

OKAY, OKAY. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IS A WAY TO GIVE WOMEN AND MINORITIES A FAIR CHANCE TO BECOME RICH, POWERFUL REPUBLICANS, SO THEY CAN HELP PROTECT OTHER RICH, POWERFUL PEOPLE FROM THE SURLY POOR FOLKS WHO ARE ALWAYS WAGING "CLASS WAR" ON THEM.



WITHOUT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, COLIN POWELL MIGHT NOT HAVE BECOME A BIG GENERAL, WHICH MEANS HIS SON MICHAEL MIGHT NOT HAVE BECOME HEAD OF THE **FCC** AND GIVEN THE PUBLIC AIRWAVES AWAY TO THOSE BIG COMPANIES.



AND SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR MIGHT NEVER HAVE MADE IT TO THE SUPREME COURT, WHERE SHE JUST MAY DECIDE TO GET RID OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ALTOGETHER!



the candidate

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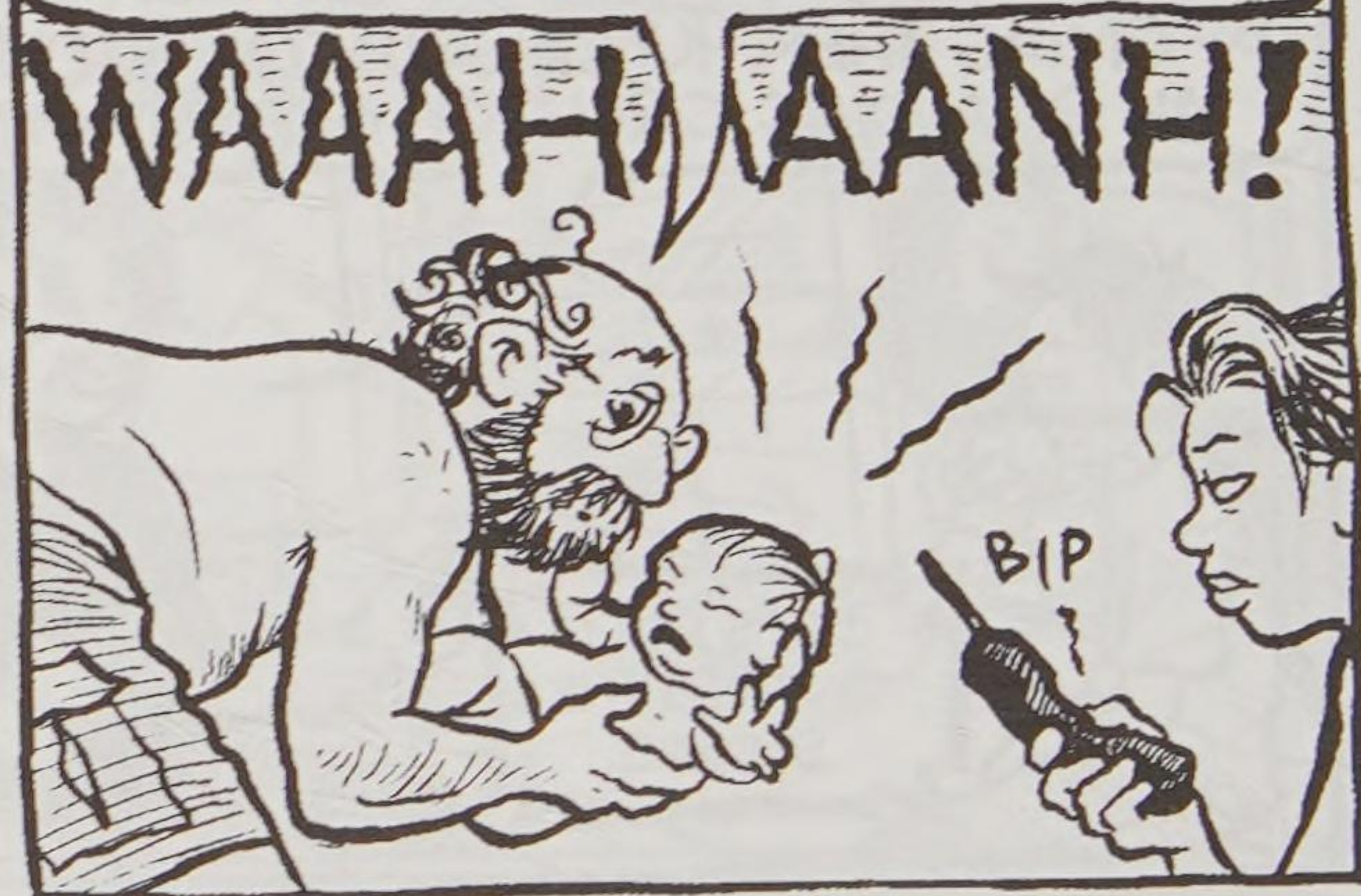
7/2

4/9

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? HOW COULD THE PROSECUTOR NOT KNOW THE GUY HAS THREE PRIORS?!... NO, NO. I'LL CALL HER TOMORROW ... OKAY, BYE.



HONEY? DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD BE TAKING CALLS FROM WORK? I'M WORRIED THE STRESS IS DECREASING YOUR MILK PRODUCTION.



SHE'S SO FUSSY, AND I DON'T THINK SHE'S GAINING ENOUGH WEIGHT.

STUART, SHE WAS FINE AT HER LAST CHECK-UP. AND YOU CAN'T WEIGH HER LIKE THAT!

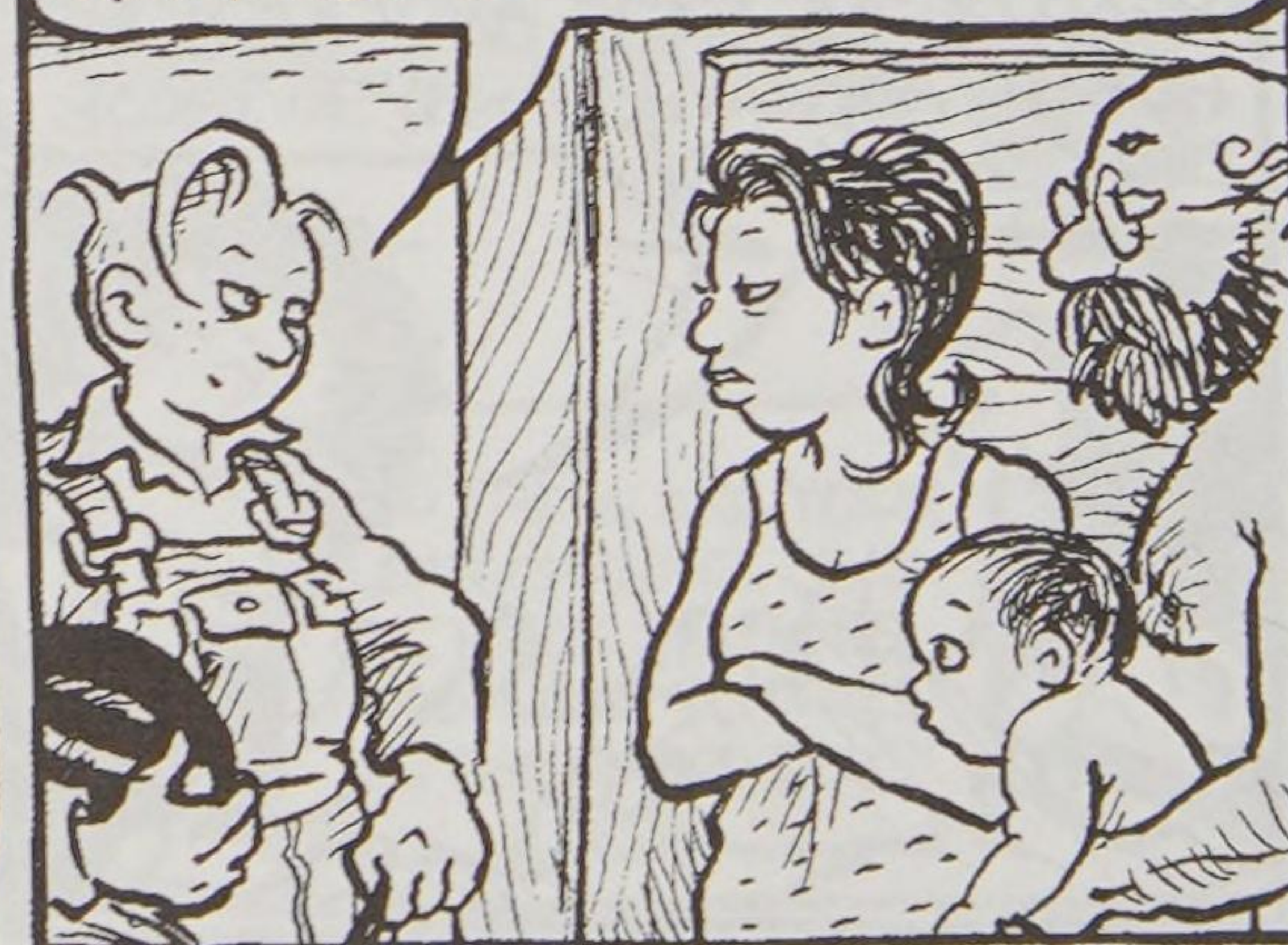


YOU GUYS, WHAT DO YOU THINK? ANOTHER SOCK?

THAT DEPENDS. ARE YOU RUNNING FOR OFFICE?

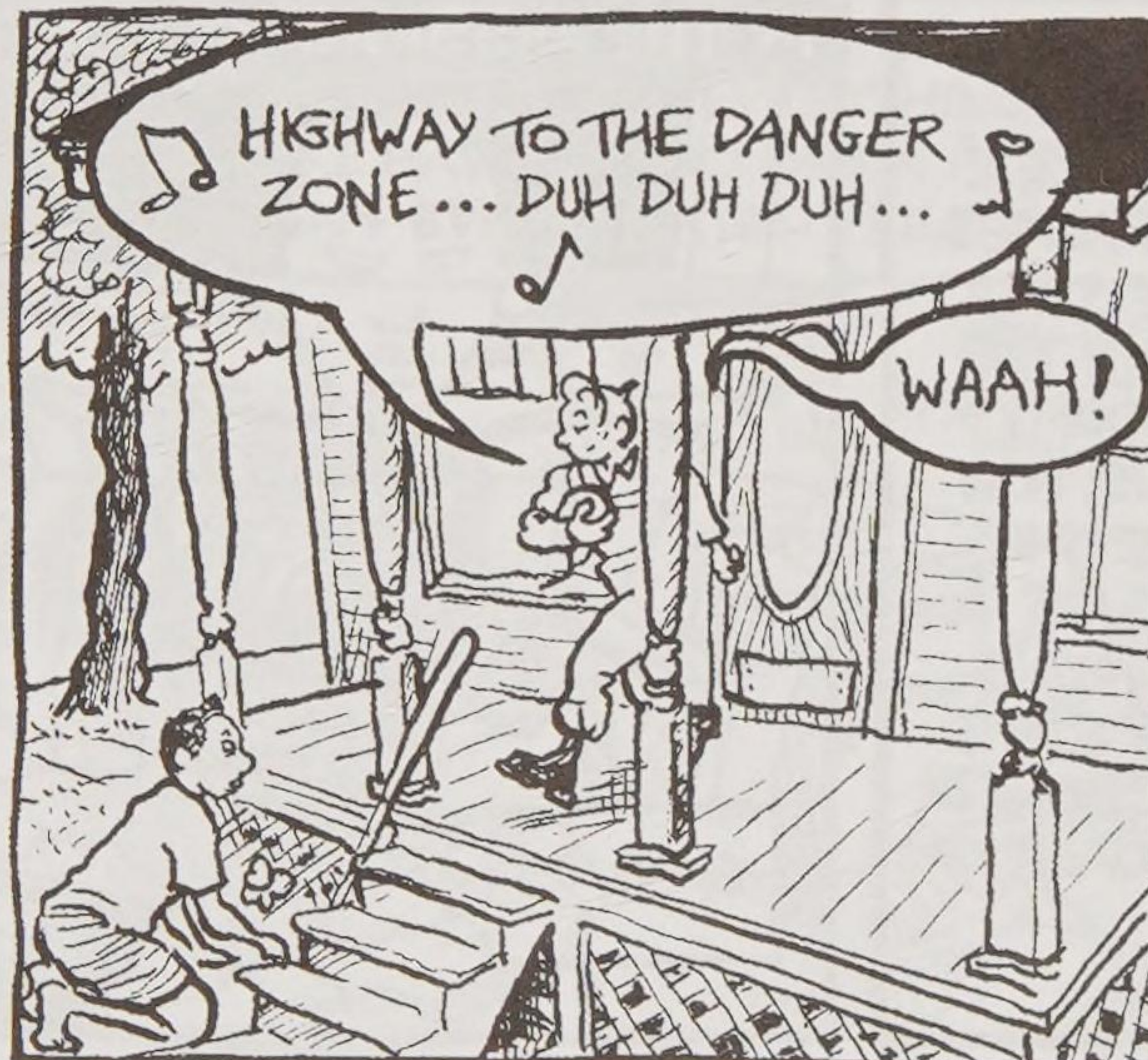


YEAH, TONIGHT'S THE "DEMOCRATS ARE A DRAG" REVUE AT CLUB L. I'M GONNA FLY ONSTAGE WITH A CABLE ATTACHED TO MY, UH... HARNESS.



THEN THE AUDIENCE
VOTES AS I SQUARE
OFF AGAINST THE DEM-
OCRATIC CANDIDATES
IN AN "ARE YOU HOT"
STYLE STRUT-FEST.

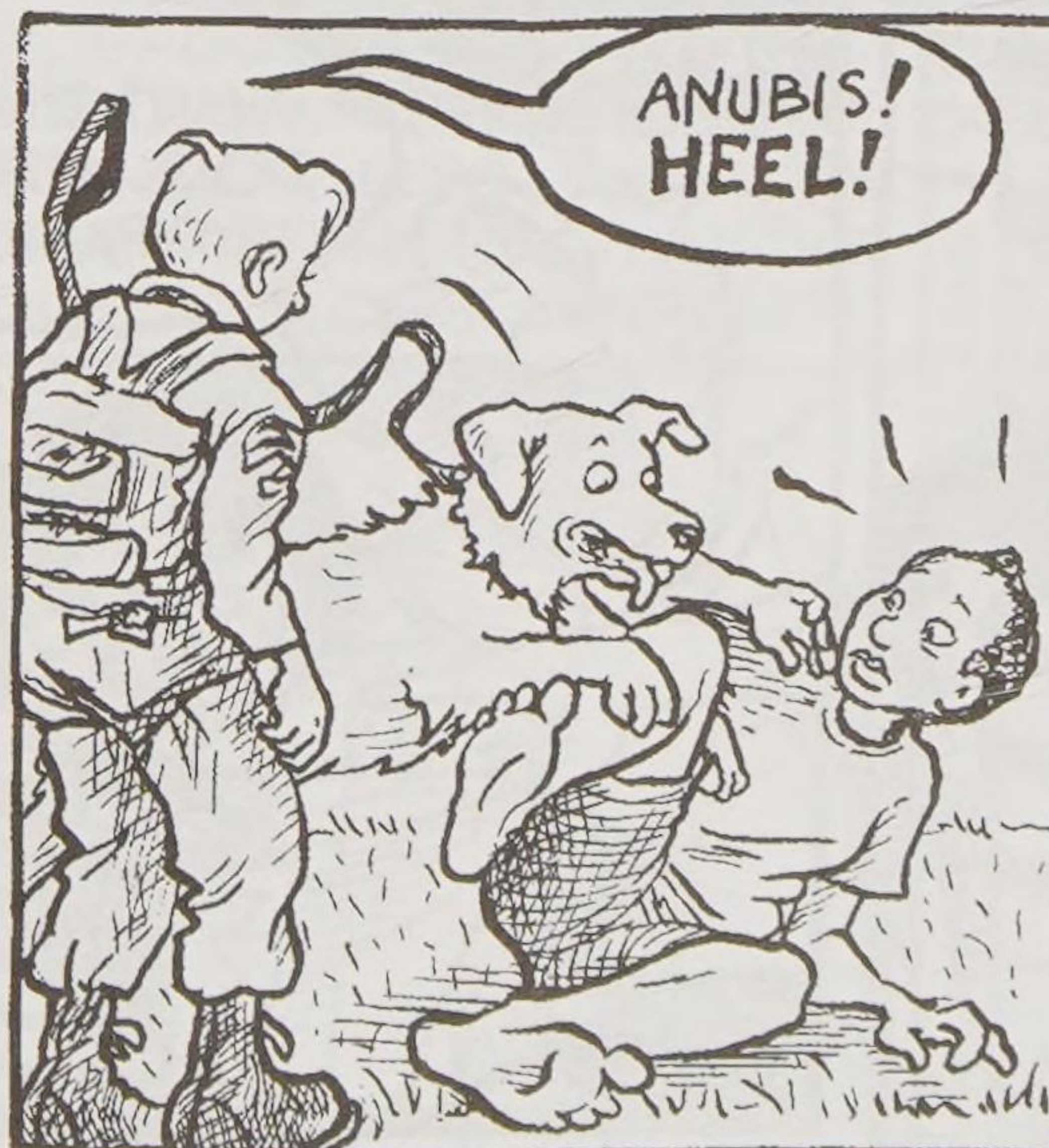
IF ONLY
ALL CITIZENS
WERE AS
ENGAGED IN
THE POLITICAL
PROCESS.



GINGER, ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T
WANT TO COME? WE STILL NEED A
DENNIS KUCINICH. PRO-CHOICE
T-SHIRT, A PAIR OF FLIP-FLOPS,
YOU'D BE ALL SET.



COME ON. I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU. YOU'RE
NEVER GONNA MEET ANYONE HANGING AROUND
HERE WITH THE TACTICAL NUCLEAR FAMILY.



ENTERING NORMAL

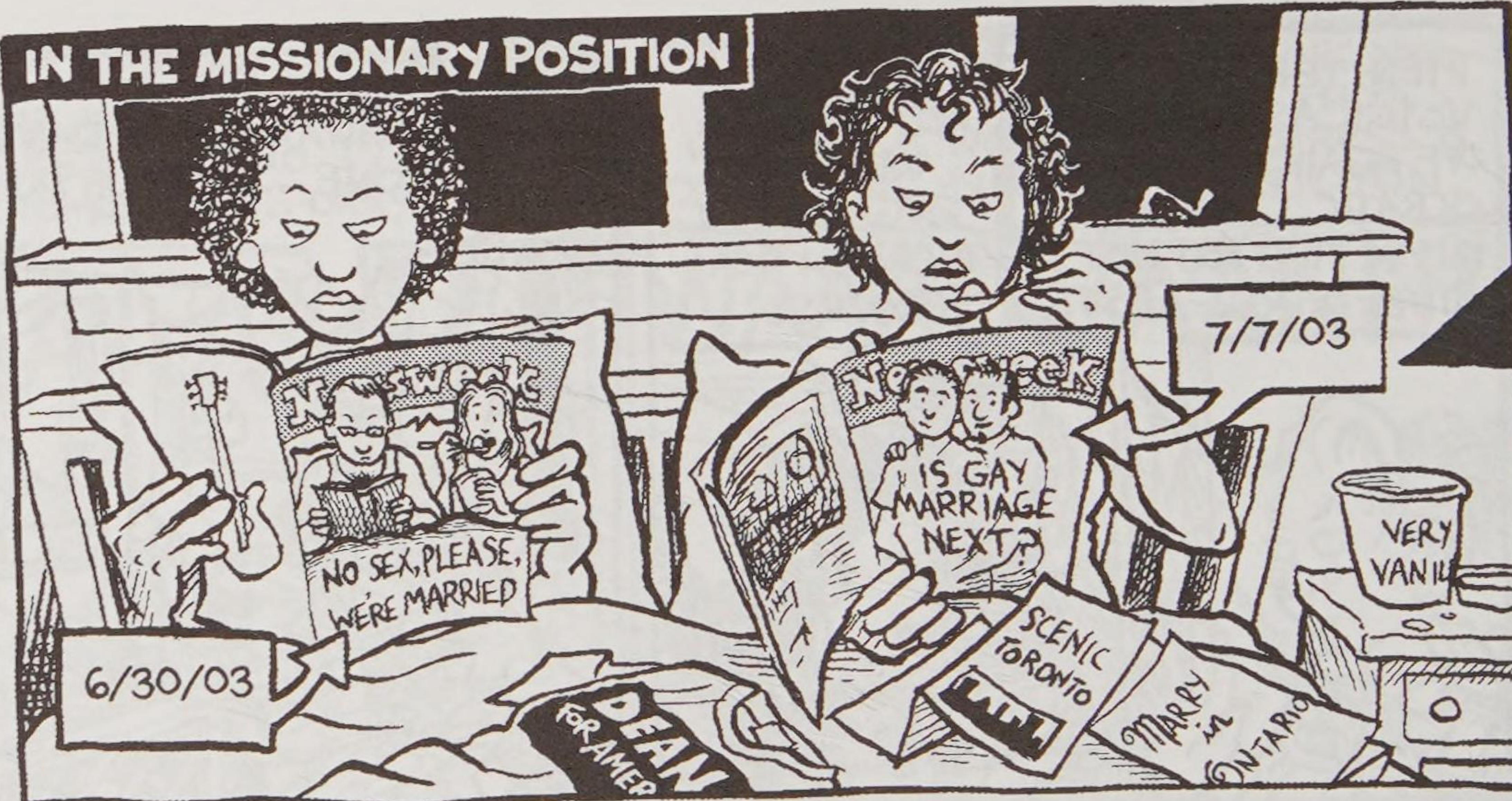
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7/16

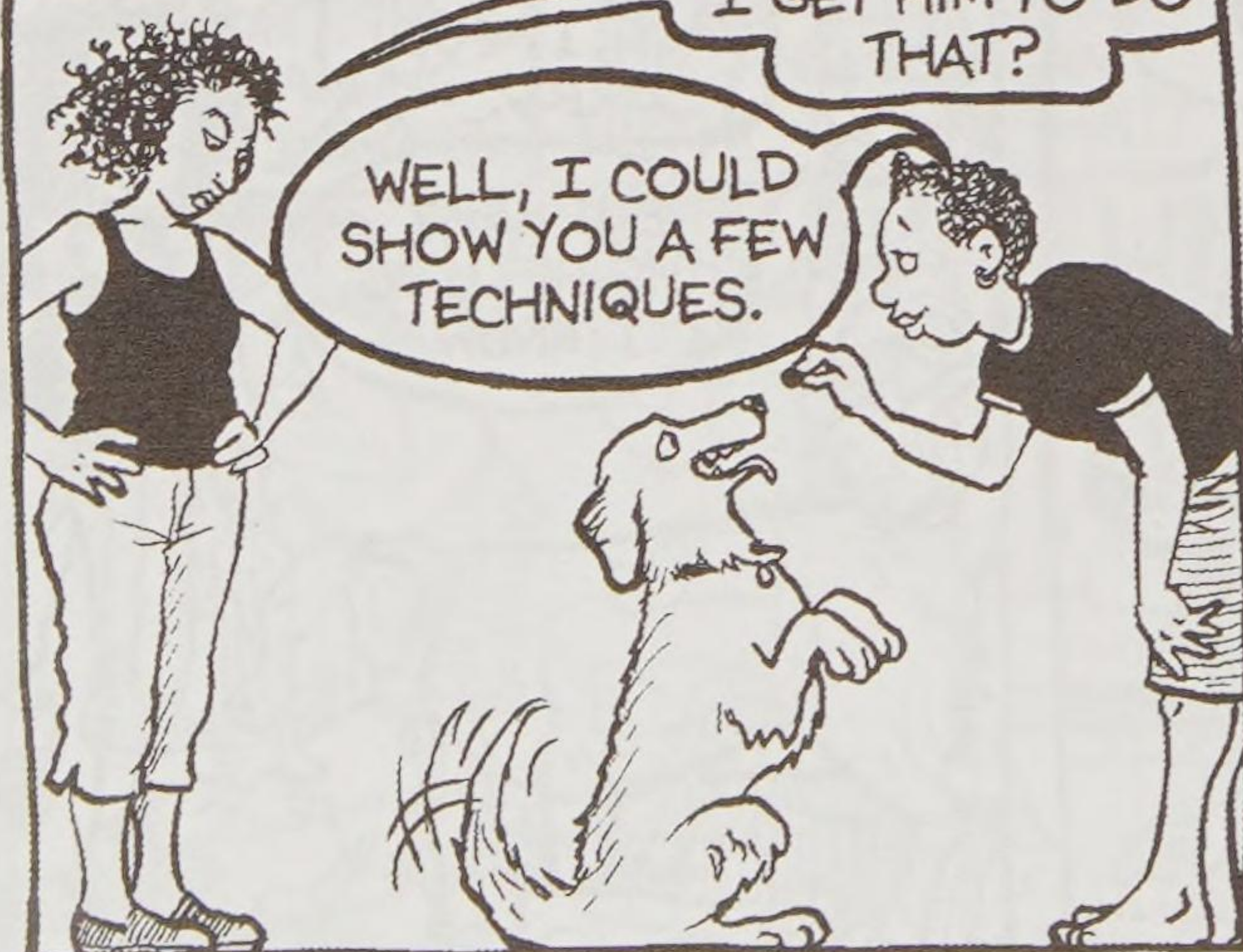
420

NOW
THAT THE
SUPREMES
HAVE STRUCK
DOWN THE
SODOMY
LAWS, HOW
ARE THE
GALS
ENJOYING
THEIR STATE-
SANCTIONED
SEXUALITY?

IN THE MISSIONARY POSITION



DOGGIE STYLE



SEATED



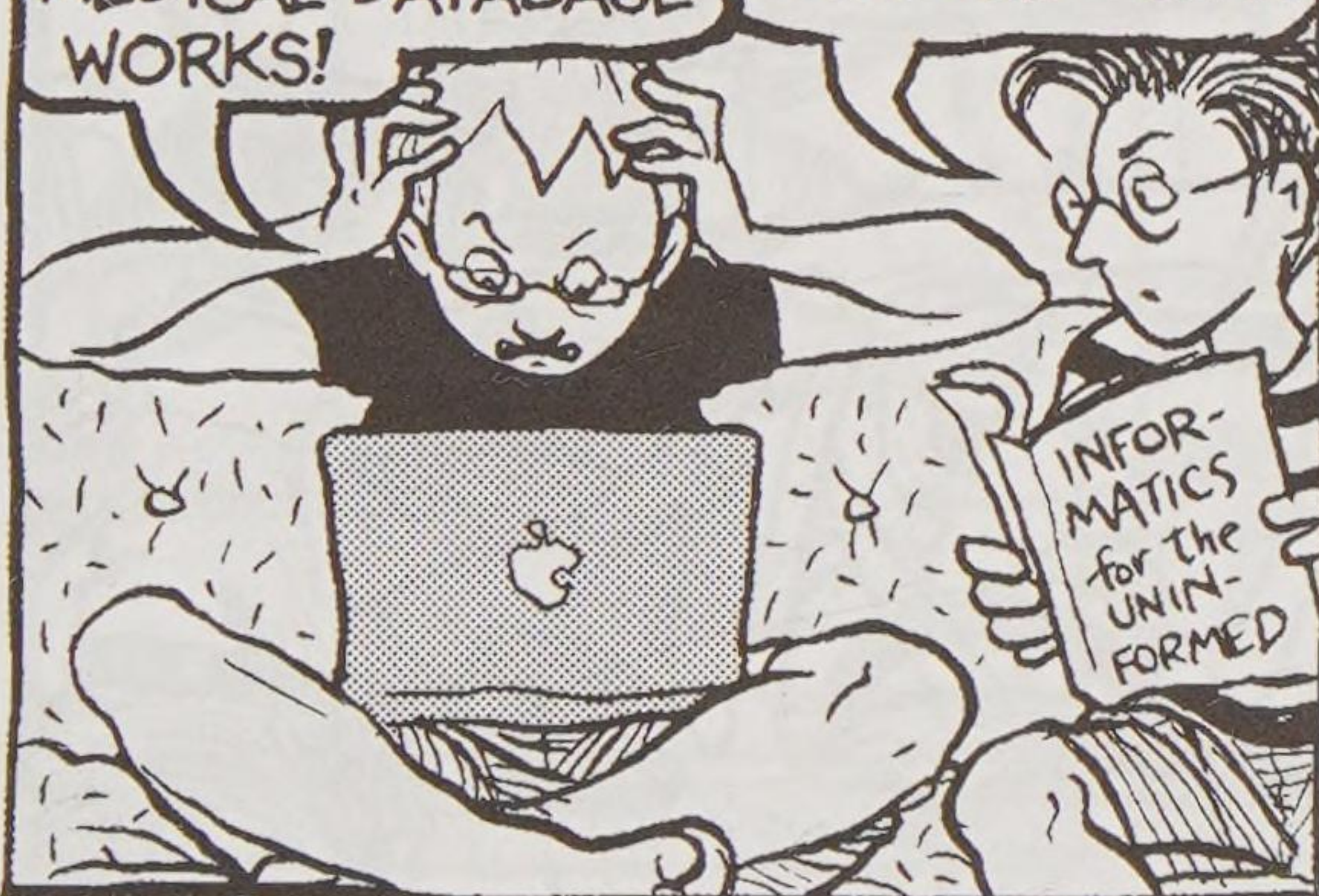
IN THREESOMES



ON THE INTERNET

#\$@*! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW THIS *&#@ING MEDICAL DATABASE WORKS!

SWEETIE, YOU'VE BEEN ONLINE ALL DAY. YOU'RE GOOGLED OUT.



THE WORDS ARE STARTING TO SWIM... OH, GOD! THE SCREEN'S GOING DIM! EVERYTHING'S FADING TO BLACK! I HAVE CHEMO BRAIN **ALREADY**, AND I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED TREATMENT YET!



YOU'RE ADRIFT IN THE INFORMATION OCEAN WITHOUT A PADDLE. THIS IS A JOB FOR A PRO.



ANALLY, OF COURSE

LET'S REFINE YOUR SEARCH TERMS. YOU SHOULD BE USING CONTROLLED VOCABULARY. AND THE OPEN WEB IS NOT THE PLACE TO START. WE'LL ACCESS THE SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES THROUGH THE LIBRARY GATEWAY...

A TIP O' THE NIB TO CHRISTINE JENKINS

OKAY, I FOUND A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF A CHEMO REGIMEN THAT SEEMS TO CAUSE LESS LONG-TERM COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION THAN THE ONE YOUR ONCOLOGIST MENTIONED.

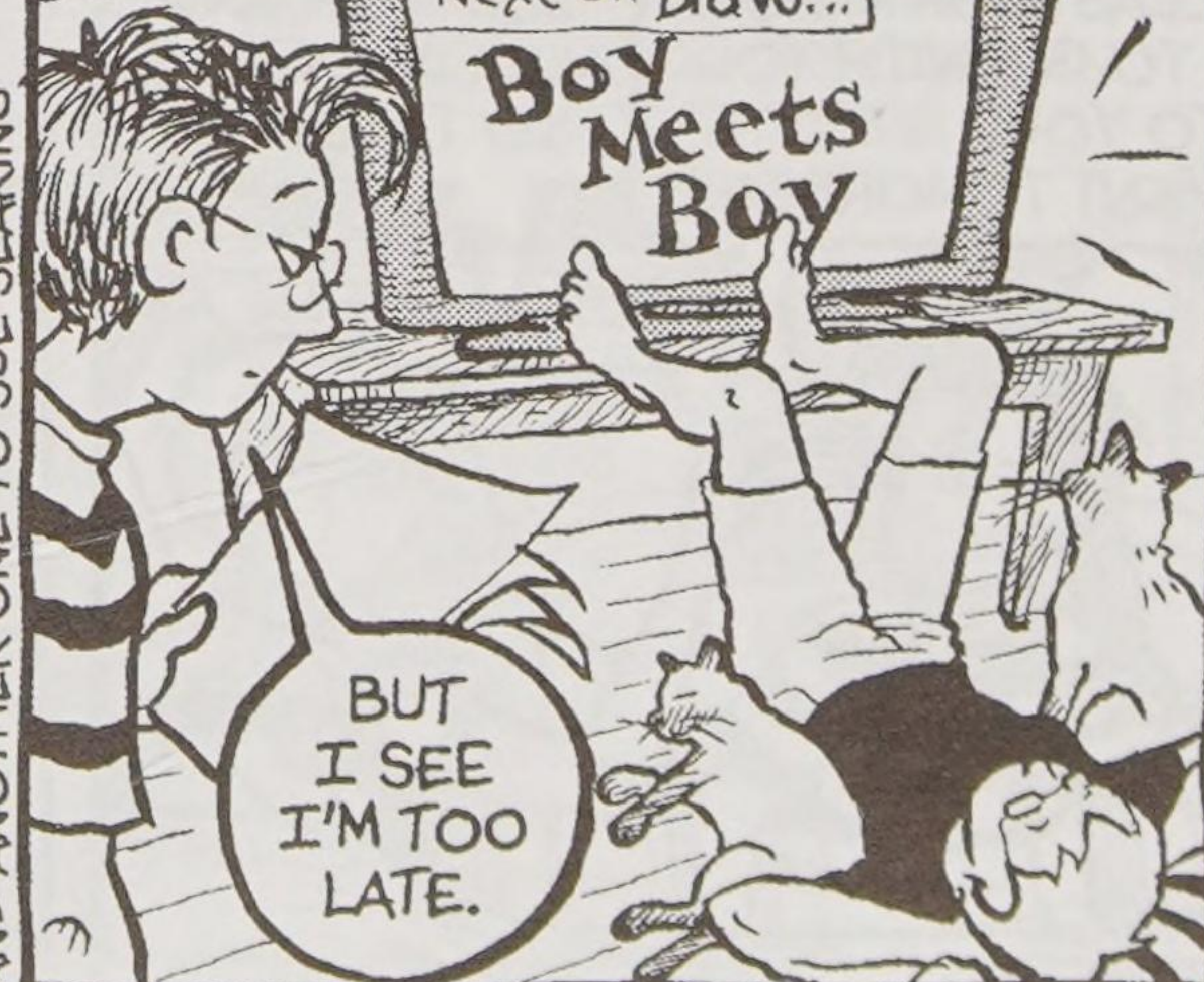


AND ON THEIR BACKS.

Next on Bravo...

Boy Meets Boy

BUT I SEE I'M TOO LATE.



HELP!

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7/30

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MO'S OFF, WITH SOME RELUCTANCE, FOR A TEN-DAY SESSION AT HER LOW-RESIDENCY LIBRARY SCHOOL PROGRAM.

SYDNEY, THIS DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.

I'LL BE FINE. WHY SHOULD MY CHEMOTHERAPY DISRUPT BOTH OUR LIVES?

NO STANDING PLEASE, LADIES. UNLOAD AND MOVE ALONG.

UNATTENDED LUGGAGE WILL BE SHOT

NO STOPPING
STANDING
PAUSING
CONSIDERING
FALTERING
DAWDLING
OR SHILLY
SHALLYING

WON'T YOU AT LEAST ASK GINGER TO GO WITH YOU TO YOUR APPOINTMENT TOMORROW?

I TOLD YOU, SCOOTER AND ALEX ARE GOING TO TAKE ME.

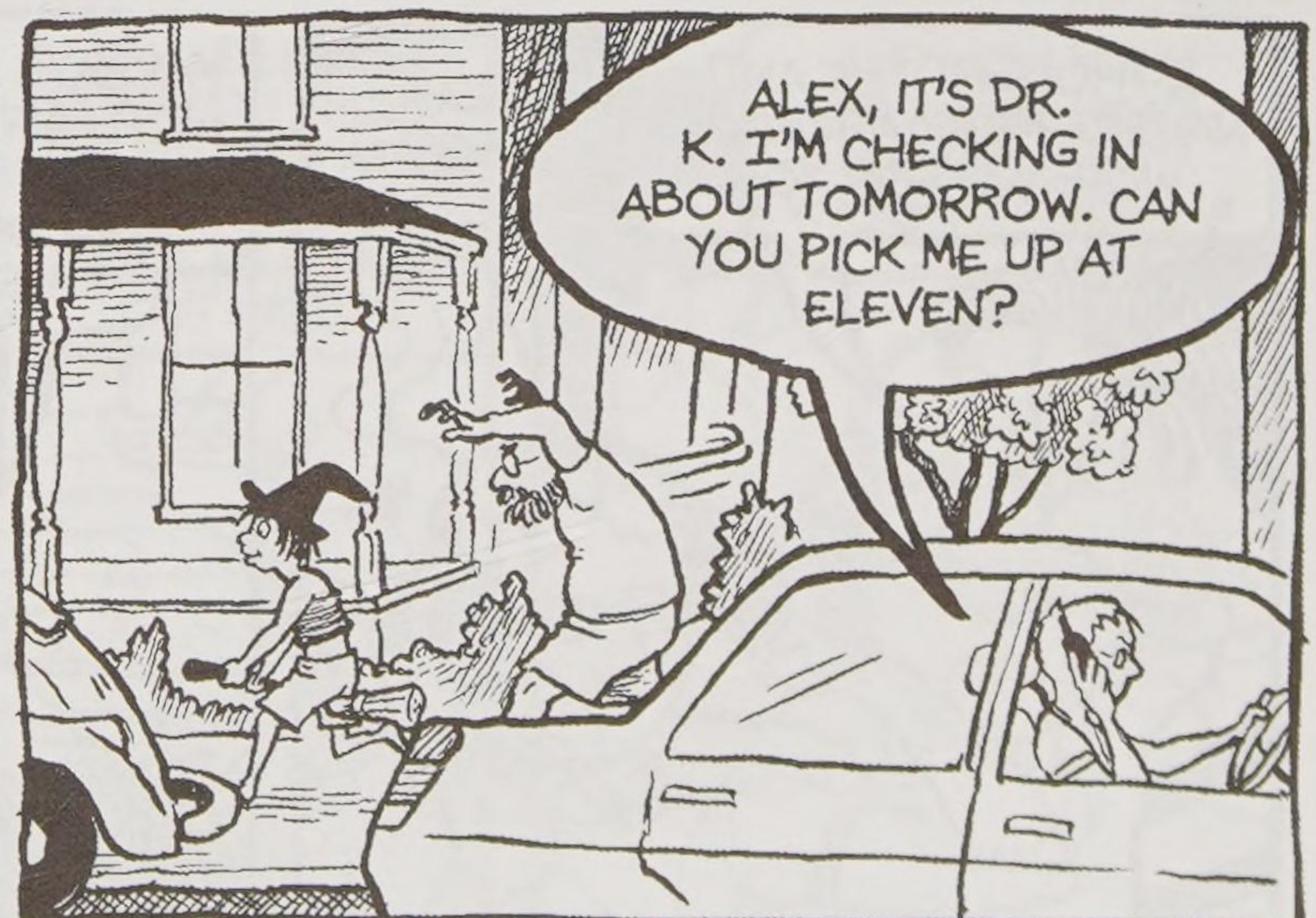
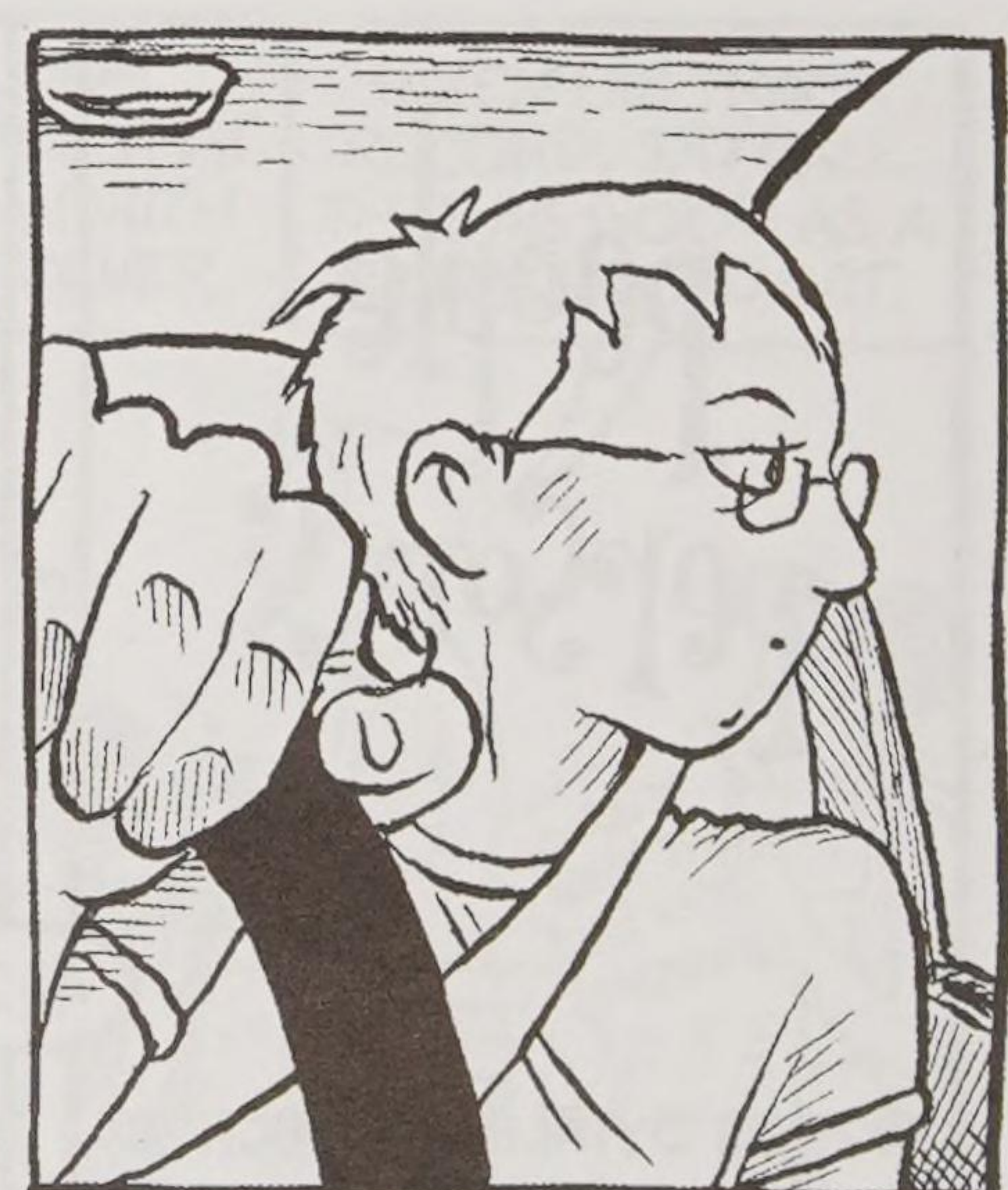
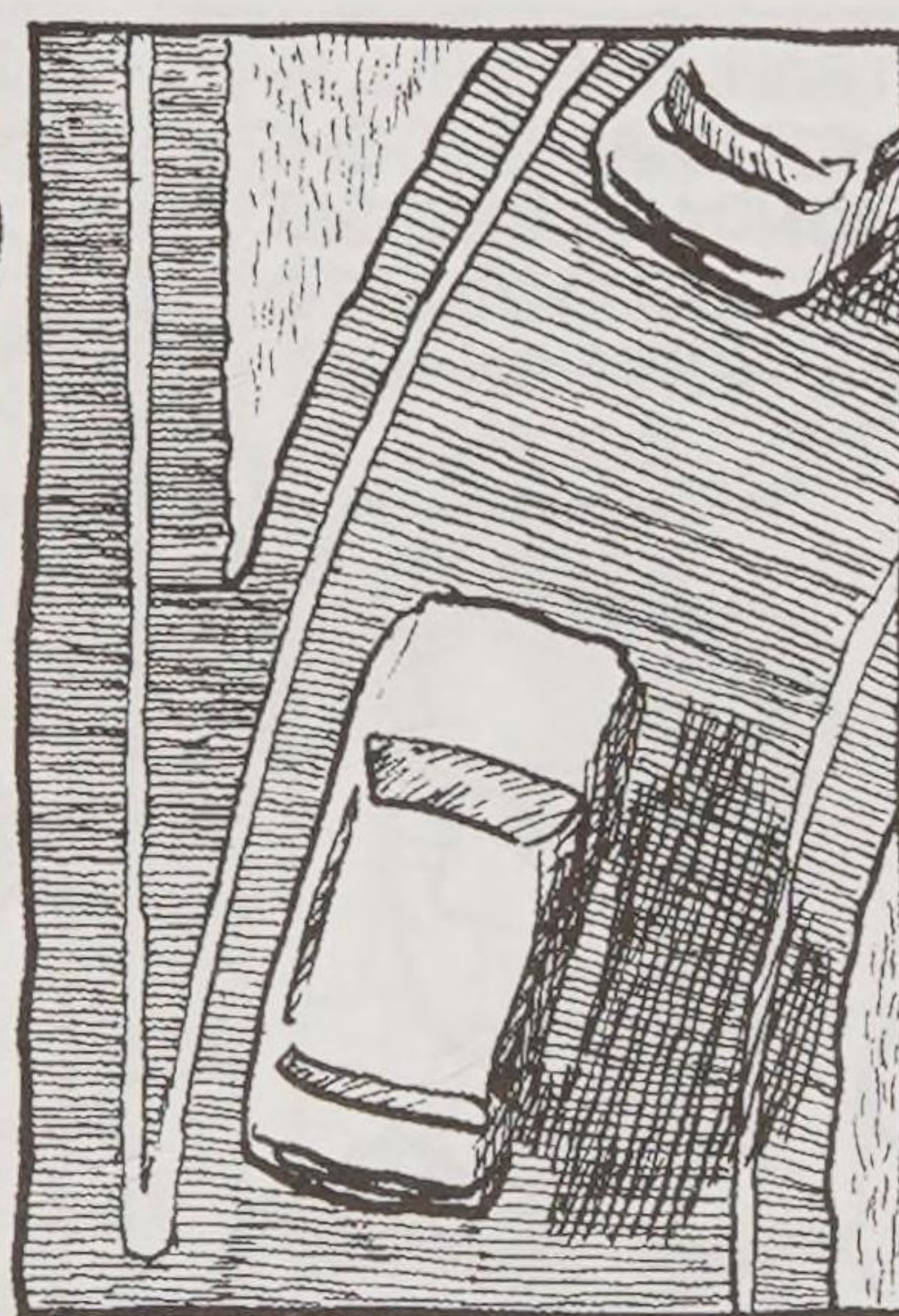
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU CAN ASK FOR HELP FROM YOUR STUDENTS, BUT NOT YOUR FRIENDS.

I DIDN'T ASK. THEY OFFERED. THEY'RE VERY SWEET. IF MY HAIR FALLS OUT, THEY'VE VOWED TO SHAVE THEIR HEADS IN SOLIDARITY.

THEY ALREADY SHAVE THEIR HEADS!

HAVE FUN WITH FIONA. BRING ME BACK JUICY DETAILS.





people persons

8/13

422

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YEAH, SHE STILL HAS
HER HAIR, BUT SHE'S
KINDA DEPRESSED.
SHE'S TRYING TO
WORK ON HER
BOOK...



UH...GINGER,
I SMELL SOME-
THING BURNING. I
GOTTA GO.



ARE YOU
SMOKING?



DON'T WORRY, IT'S
MEDICINAL. MY STUDENTS
SCORED IT FOR ME.



I THOUGHT THE ANTI-
NAUSEA MEDICATION WAS
WORKING FOR YOU.

YEAH,
SO?



MO SAYS SYD DID OKAY
WITH HER FIRST ROUND
OF CHEMO. BUT SHE'S
KIND OF ISOLATING
HERSELF.



I FEEL BAD WE DIDN'T
CHECK IN ON HER, TAKE
HER SOME ZUCCHINI
BREAD OR SOMETHING.

I E-MAILED HER, AND
DIDN'T HEAR BACK. I
FIGURED IF SHE WANTED
TO SEE ME, SHE'D LET
ME KNOW.



HM. THAT PRINCIPLE
SERVES YOU WELL
IN YOUR SO-CALLED
LOVE LIFE, TOO,
DOESN'T IT?

YEAH. WHEN ARE YOU GOING
TO STOP LURKING HERE BY
THE PETUNIAS WAITING FOR
THE DOG WOMAN TO GO BY
AND ASK HER OUT ALREADY?

ASK HER
OUT?! I
DON'T EVEN
KNOW IF SHE'S
A LESBIAN.

HEY, GINGER. LOOK
SHARP. HERE COMES THAT
GORGEOUS WOMAN WITH
THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER.

GIVEN HIS TRACK
RECORD, I'D CALL
THAT AS GOOD AS A
SIGNED AFFIDAVIT.



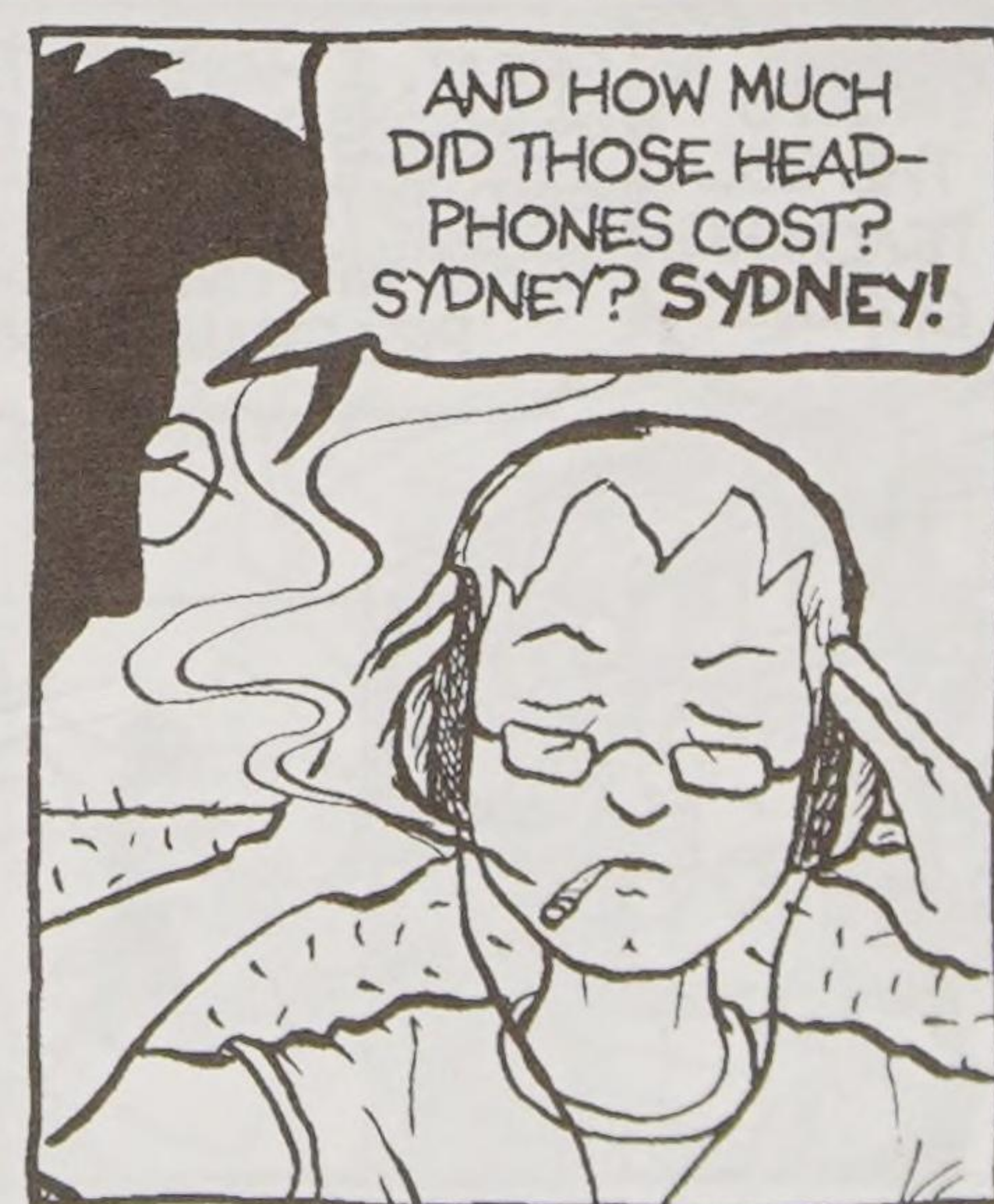
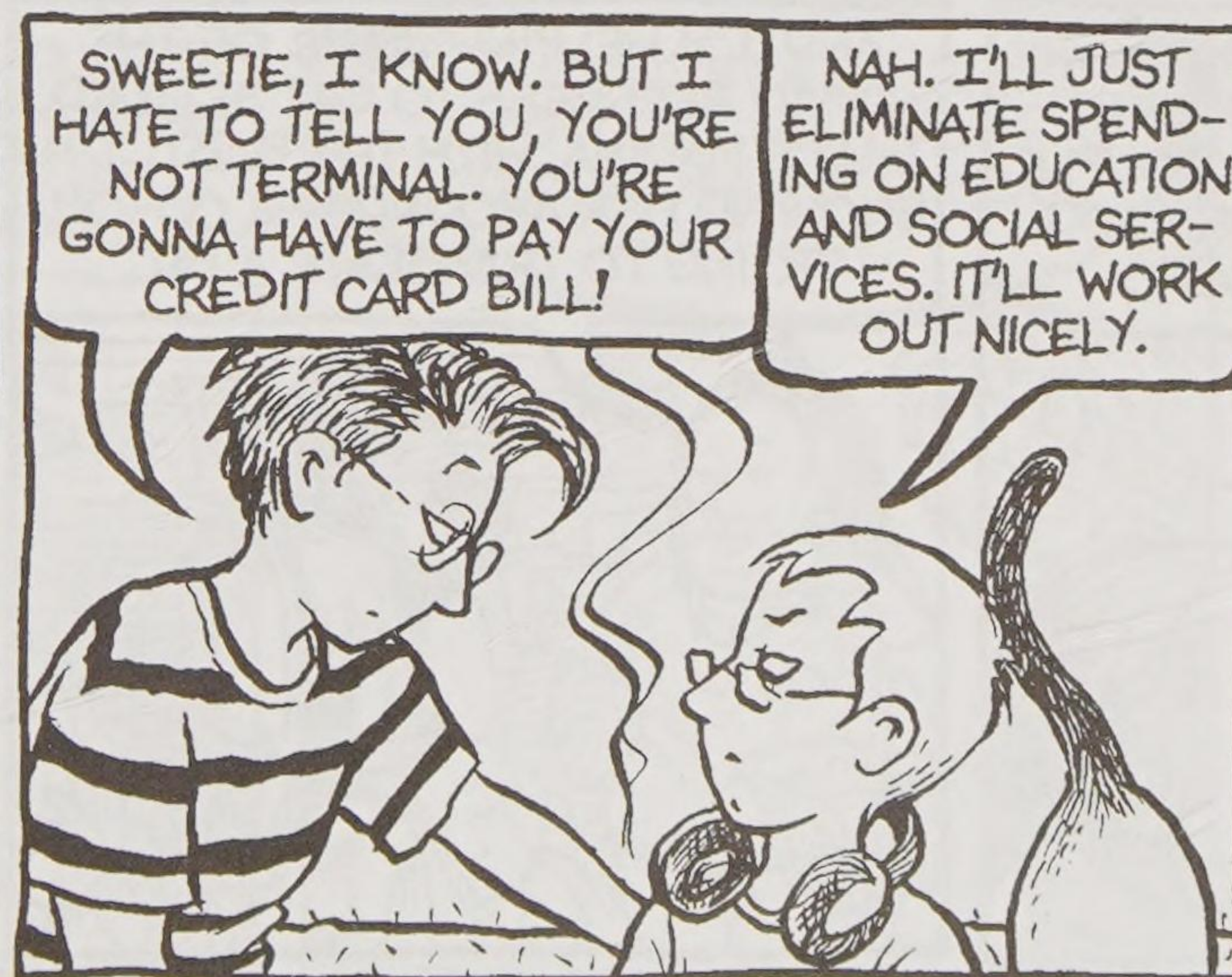
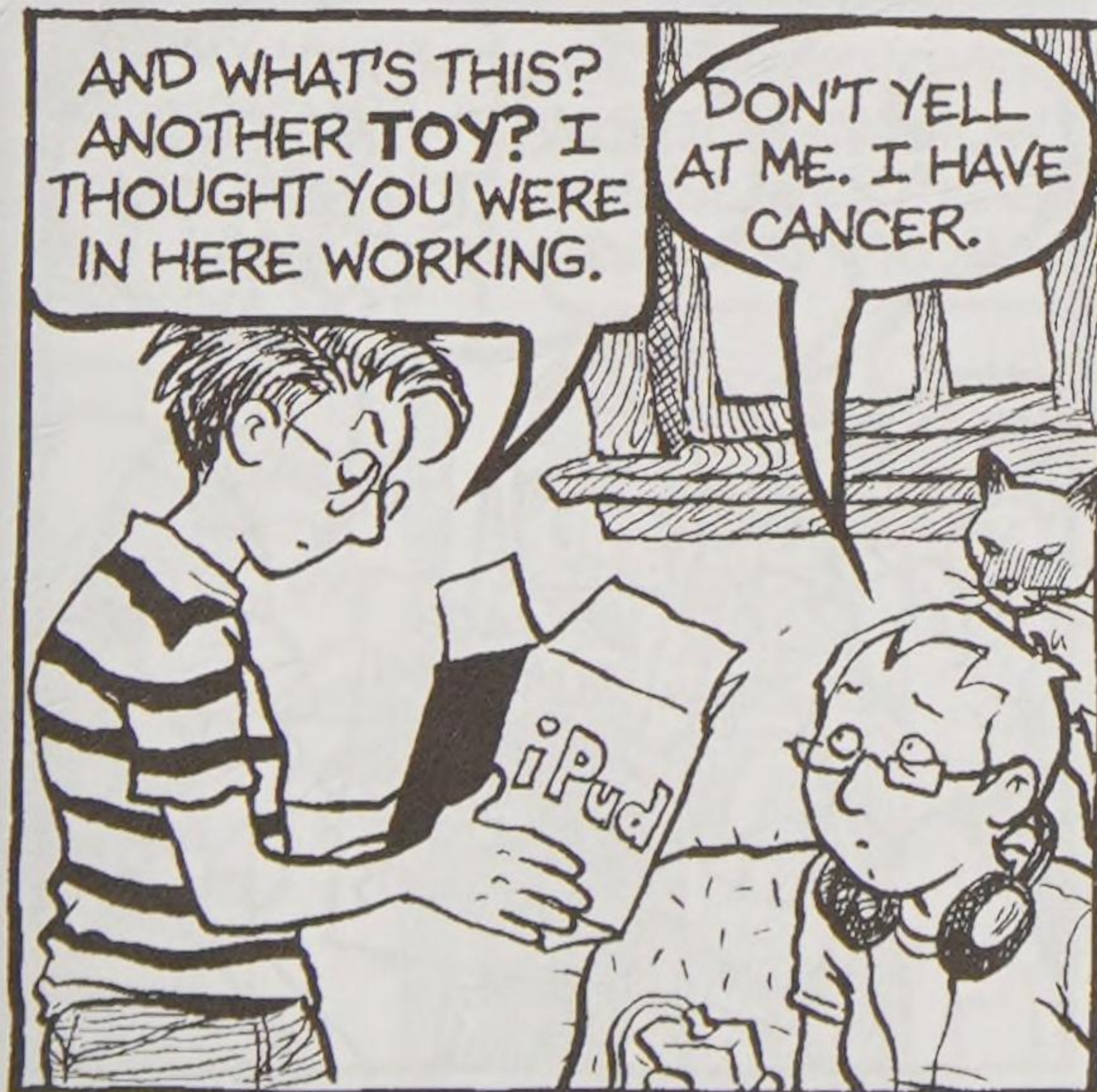
AND WHAT'S THIS?
ANOTHER **TOY?** I
THOUGHT YOU WERE
IN HERE WORKING.

DON'T YELL
AT ME. I HAVE
CANCER.

SWEETIE, I KNOW. BUT I
HATE TO TELL YOU, YOU'RE
NOT TERMINAL. YOU'RE
GONNA HAVE TO PAY YOUR
CREDIT CARD BILL!

NAH. I'LL JUST
ELIMINATE SPEND-
ING ON EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL SER-
VICES. IT'LL WORK
OUT NICELY.

AND HOW MUCH
DID THOSE HEAD-
PHONES COST?
SYDNEY? **SYDNEY!**



job lot

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8/27

423

HOW'S THE STAFF OF THE LATE, LAMENTED MADWIMMIN BOOKS MANAGING TO BRING HOME THE BACON SUBSTITUTE?

THAT'S GREAT, THEA. I KNOW YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO TEACH ART.

YEAH. A LOAD OF CLAY, A JUG OF ELMER'S GLUE, AND A ROOM FULL OF FIVE-YEAR-OLDS. WHAT COULD BE BETTER?

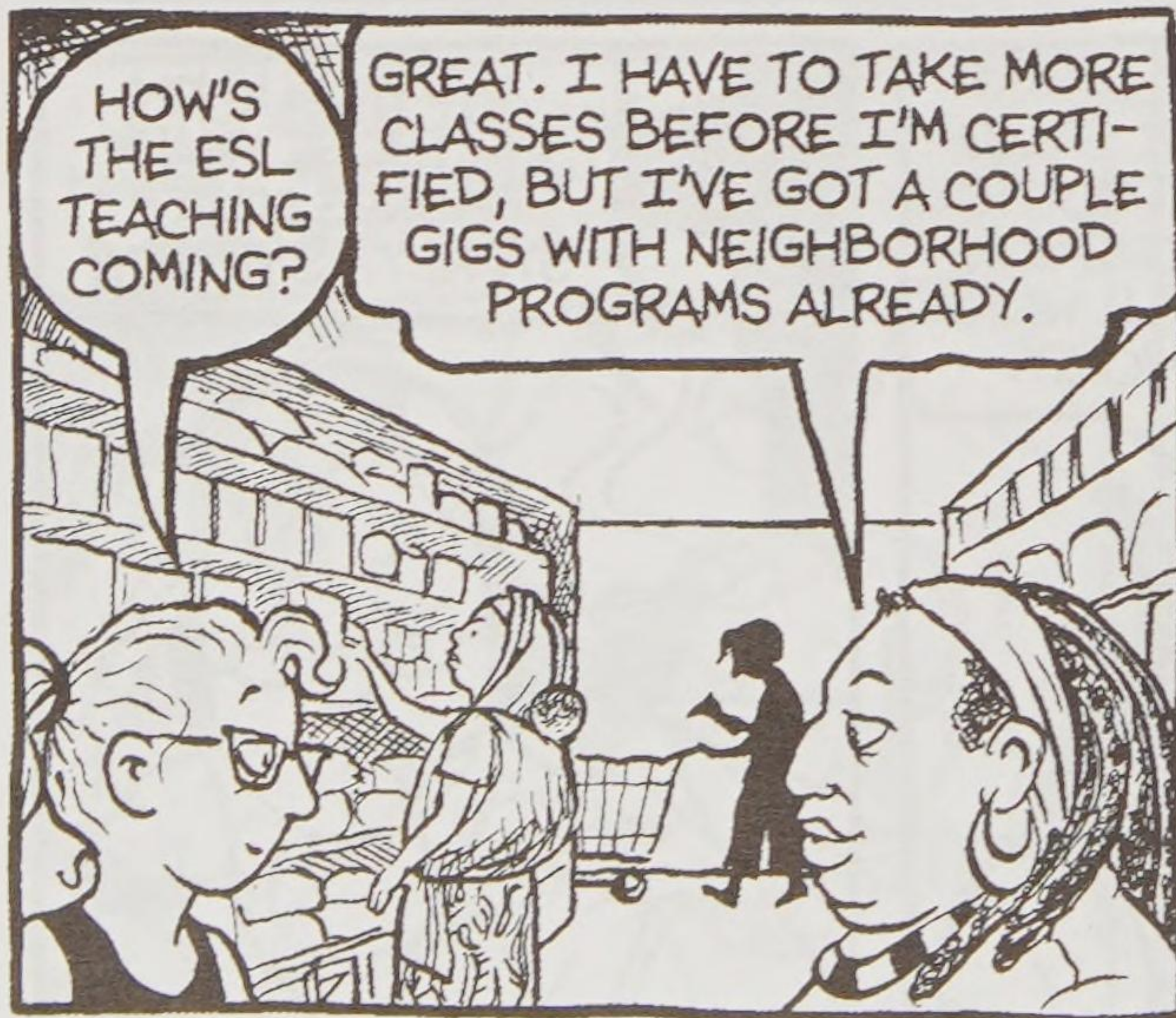


WHAT INDEED.



HOW'S THE ESL TEACHING COMING?

GREAT. I HAVE TO TAKE MORE CLASSES BEFORE I'M CERTIFIED, BUT I'VE GOT A COUPLE GIGS WITH NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS ALREADY.



AND I'M HELPING SOME OF THE SOMALI REFUGEES TO GET SETTLED. THAT'S MADINA, WITH THE BABY. I'M SHOWING HER AROUND THE CO-OP, TRYING TO TRANSLATE A BIT.



?

ALTHOUGH SOME THINGS TAKE MORE TRANSLATION THAN OTHERS.



MEANWHILE...

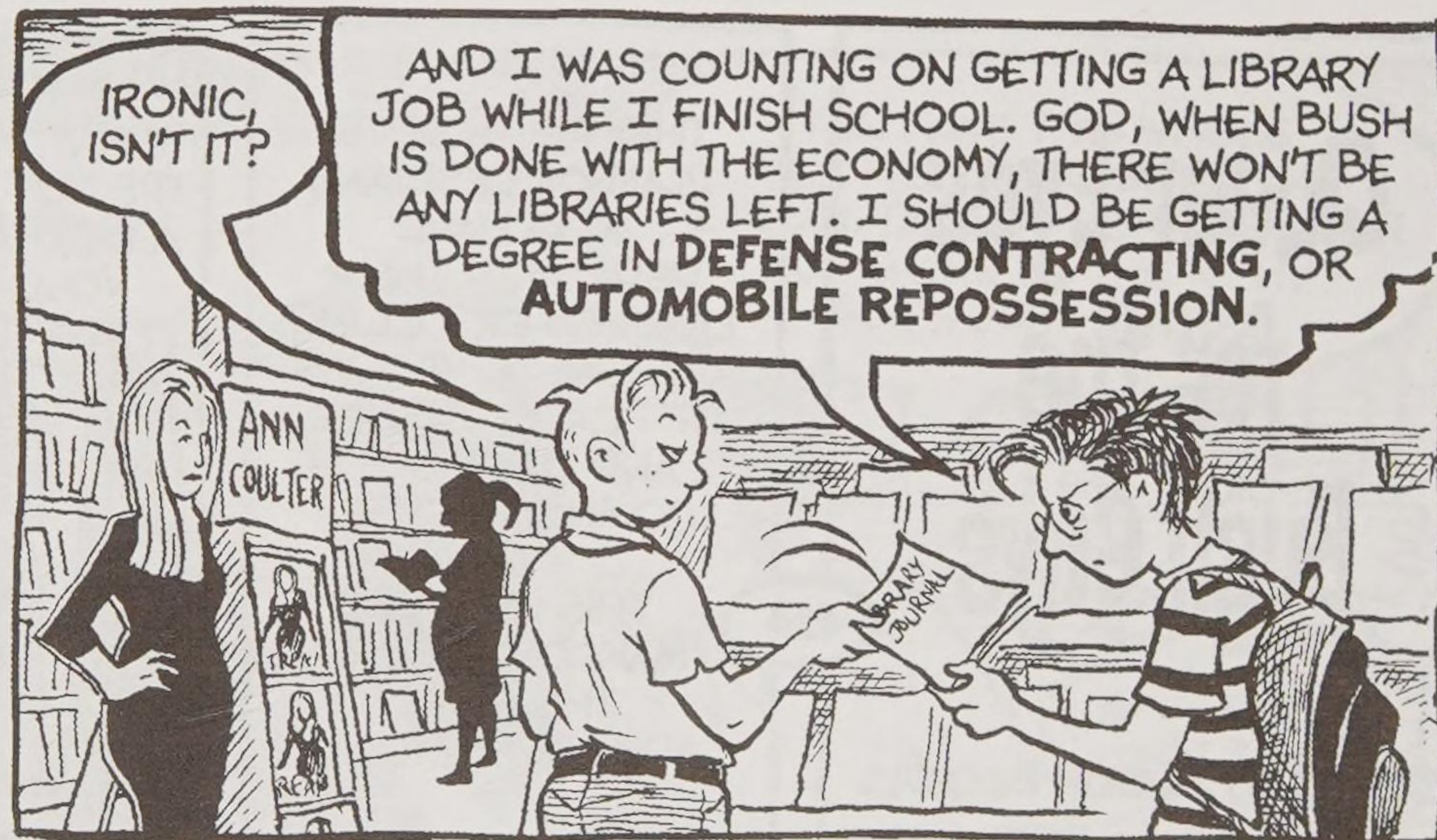
HELLO, MO! WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE TEMPLE OF MAMMON?

I NEED THE LATEST EDITION OF "LIBRARY JOURNAL." I TRIED GOING TO THE **LIBRARY**-- NOVEL THOUGHT!--BUT THEY'VE CUT BACK THEIR HOURS.



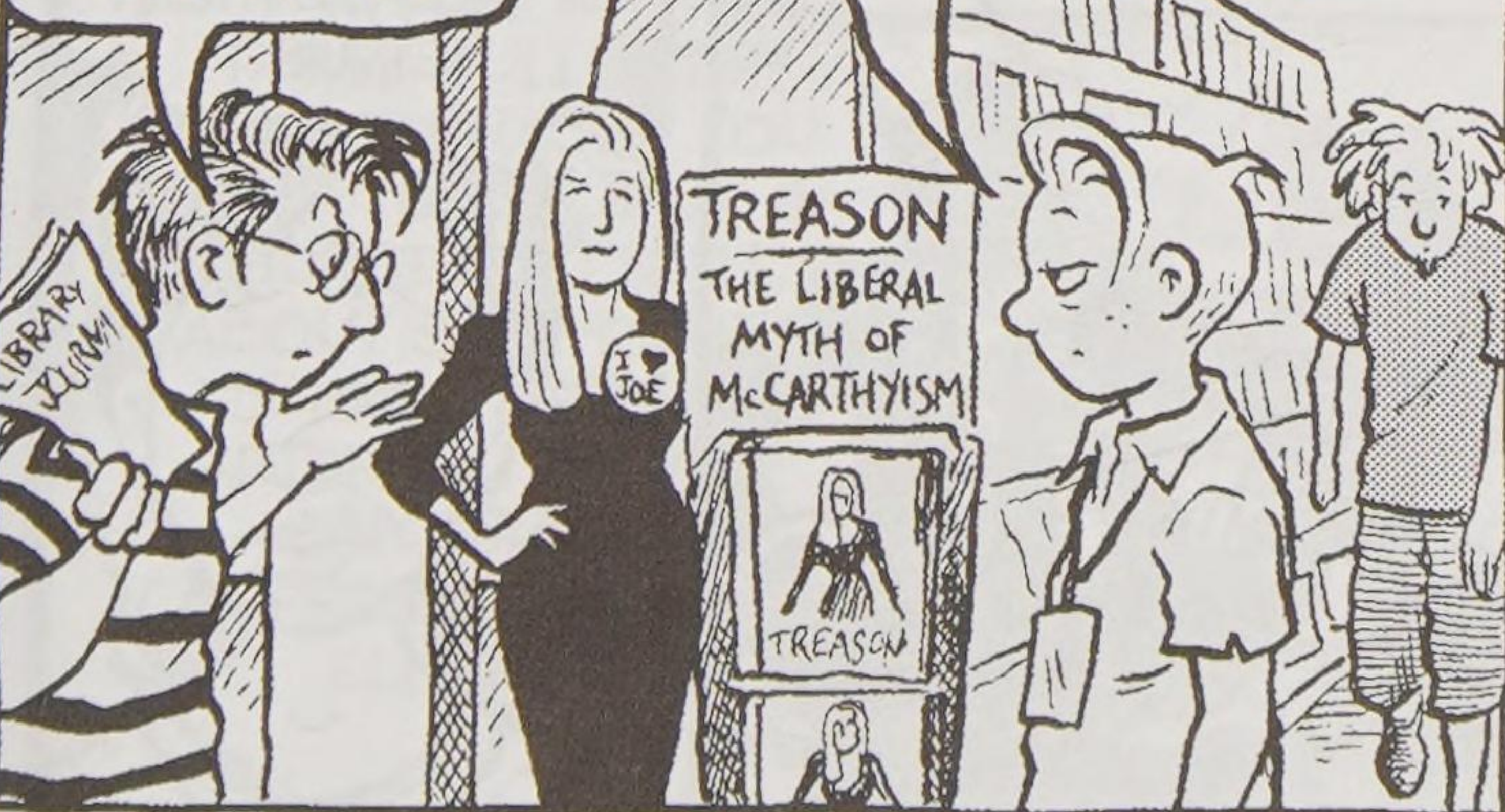
IRONIC, ISN'T IT?

AND I WAS COUNTING ON GETTING A LIBRARY JOB WHILE I FINISH SCHOOL. GOD, WHEN BUSH IS DONE WITH THE ECONOMY, THERE WON'T BE ANY LIBRARIES LEFT. I SHOULD BE GETTING A DEGREE IN **DEFENSE CONTRACTING**, OR **AUTOMOBILE REPOSSESSION**.

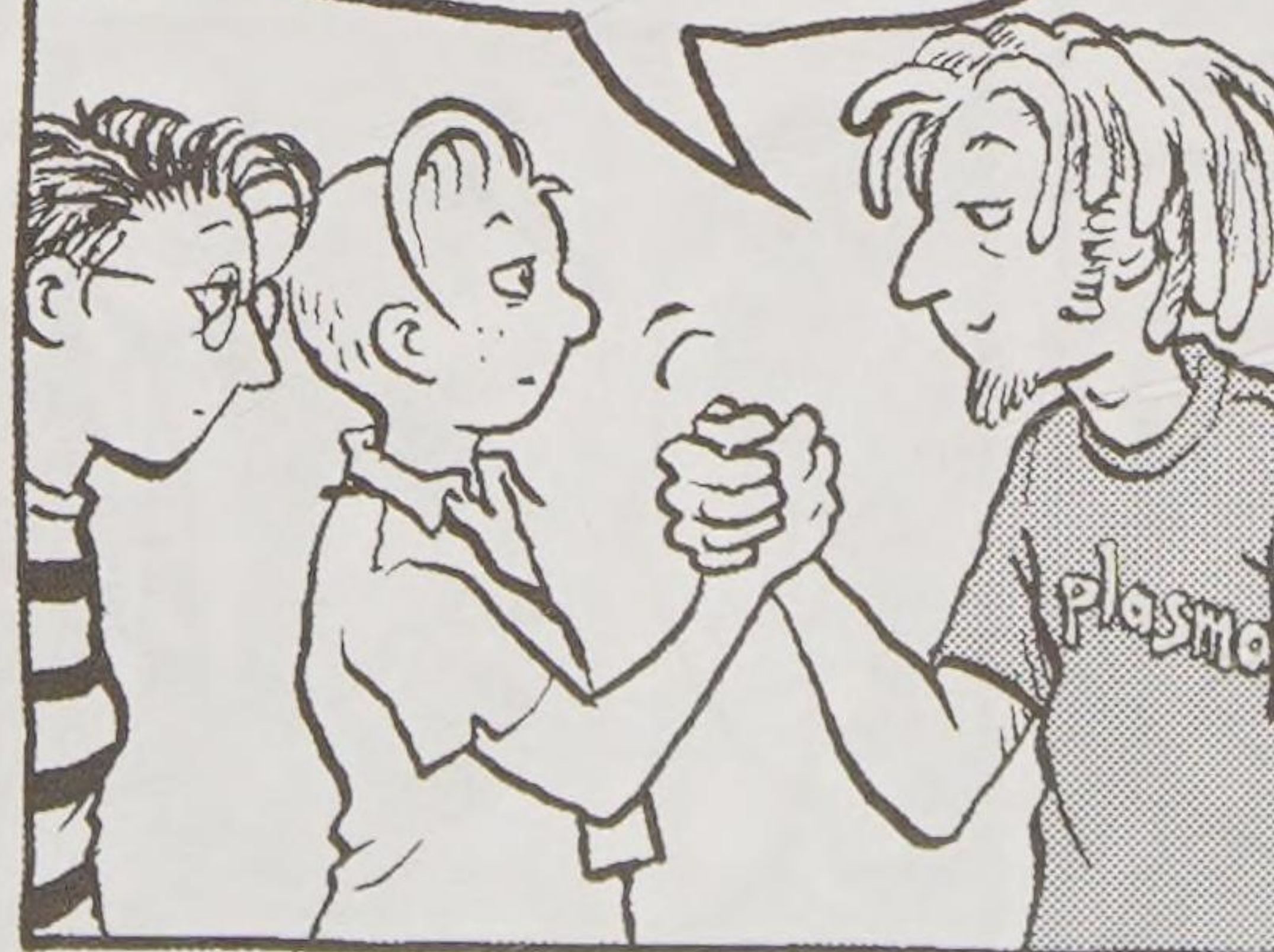


NOW MY UNEMPLOYMENT'S ABOUT TO RUN OUT. WHAT'M I GONNA DO?

GET A MAKEOVER AND WRITE A BOOK ON HOW GENOCIDE OR SLAVERY HAS GOTTEN A BAD RAP FROM LIBERALS?



DUDE, IT'S BEEN REAL. I COULDN'T GET TIME OFF FOR THE PHISH CONCERT, SO I QUIT.



OR THERE MIGHT BE AN OPENING HERE.



Queer Eyes for the Bush Guys

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9/10

424

THEY'RE AN ELITE
TEAM OF LESBIANS
WHO HAVE
DEDICATED THEIR
LIVES TO EXTOLLING
THE SIMPLE VIRTUES
OF PEACE, JUSTICE,
AND **BEEP!**ING
COMMON SENSE.

THIS WEEK, A
MAKEOVER FOR
THE BUSH
ADMINISTRATION!

MO ON FOREIGN POLICY

OKAY, YOUR IRAQ PLAN?
IT'S NOT A QUAGMIRE, IT'S
A **BEEP!**ING BOTTOMLESS
VOLCANIC MUD BATH.

LET'S MOTOR.
I CALLED AIR
FORCE ONE.

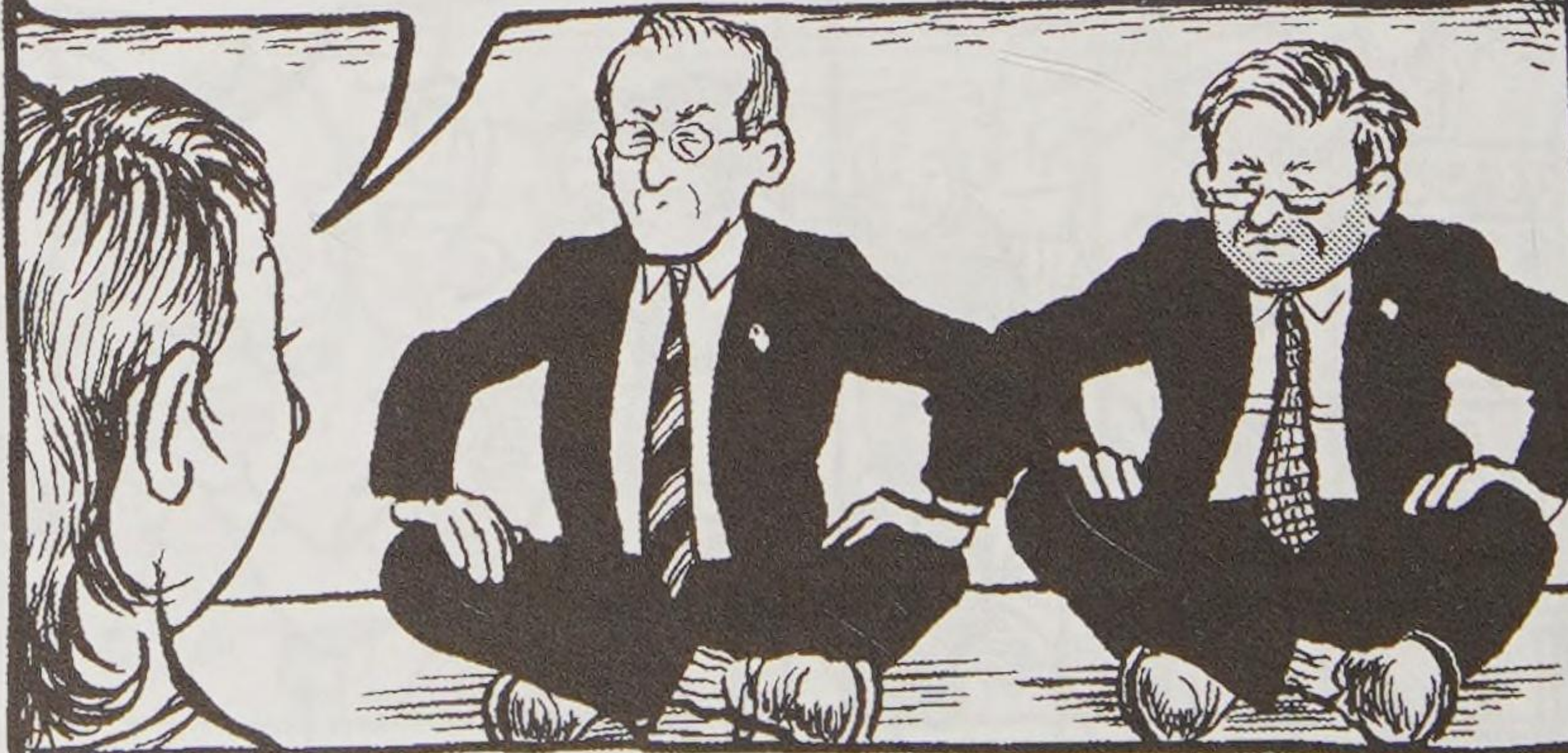


WE'RE GOING OVER TO THE U.N. FIRST,
YOU'LL BEG FOR HELP CLEANING UP YOUR
MESS. THEN YOU'LL MAKE WHATEVER
CONCESSIONS THEY ASK FOR. YOU'VE
GOT SOME SUCKING UP TO DO AND I
WANT YOU ON YOUR **KNEES**, BUSTER.



SPARROW ON DEFENSE

ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME,
DONALD AND PAUL? DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT IN
ORDER TO ACHIEVE **REAL** SECURITY, WE NEED TO STOP
TRYING TO **WASTE** THE PEOPLE WE'RE AFRAID OF?



LET'S AWAKEN OUR
HEARTS. BREATH-
ING IN, WE TAKE
ON THE SUFFERING
OF ALL SENTIENT
BEINGS.



BREATHING OUT, WE
SEND THEM LOVE
AND HAPPINESS.

GUYS? UM, YOU
ACTUALLY HAVE
TO BREATHE.

CLARICE ON THE ECONOMY

YOU HAVE THIS WHOLE
"LES MIZ" THING GOING ON.
I MEAN, TAKING FROM THE POOR
AND GIVING TO THE RICH?
THAT'S JUST **GROSS**.

TONI ON POLITICAL

STRATEGY

KARL,
WHAT'S WITH
THESE BULLBEEP!
POWER GRABS? YOU
NEED TO **BELIEVE** IN
YOURSELF! IT'S ALL
ABOUT SELF-CONFI-
DENCE. REPEAT
AFTER ME: THE GOP
CAN WIN IN A
FREE AND FAIR
ELECTION.

The Distress
TOTAL RECALL
IN CALIFORNIA
DeLAY GERRY-
MANDERS TEXAS

LOIS ON CIVIL LIBERTIES

DUDE, IT'S JOE
MCCARTHY. HE WANTS
HIS PERSONALITY
BACK.

AND THIS THING
NEEDS SOME SERIOUS
JOOZHING.

JOOZHING?

rites of fall

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9/24

425

AUTUMN:
INEXORABLE
DECLINE INTO
HARD, COLD
WINTER,...
OR
QUIESCENT
SEASON OF
SPIRITUAL
RENEWAL?

SO FAR, IT'S
LOOKING LIKE
THE FORMER.

ON UNIVERSITY HILL...



SCOOTER?
DR. K. I THINK
IT'S TIME.

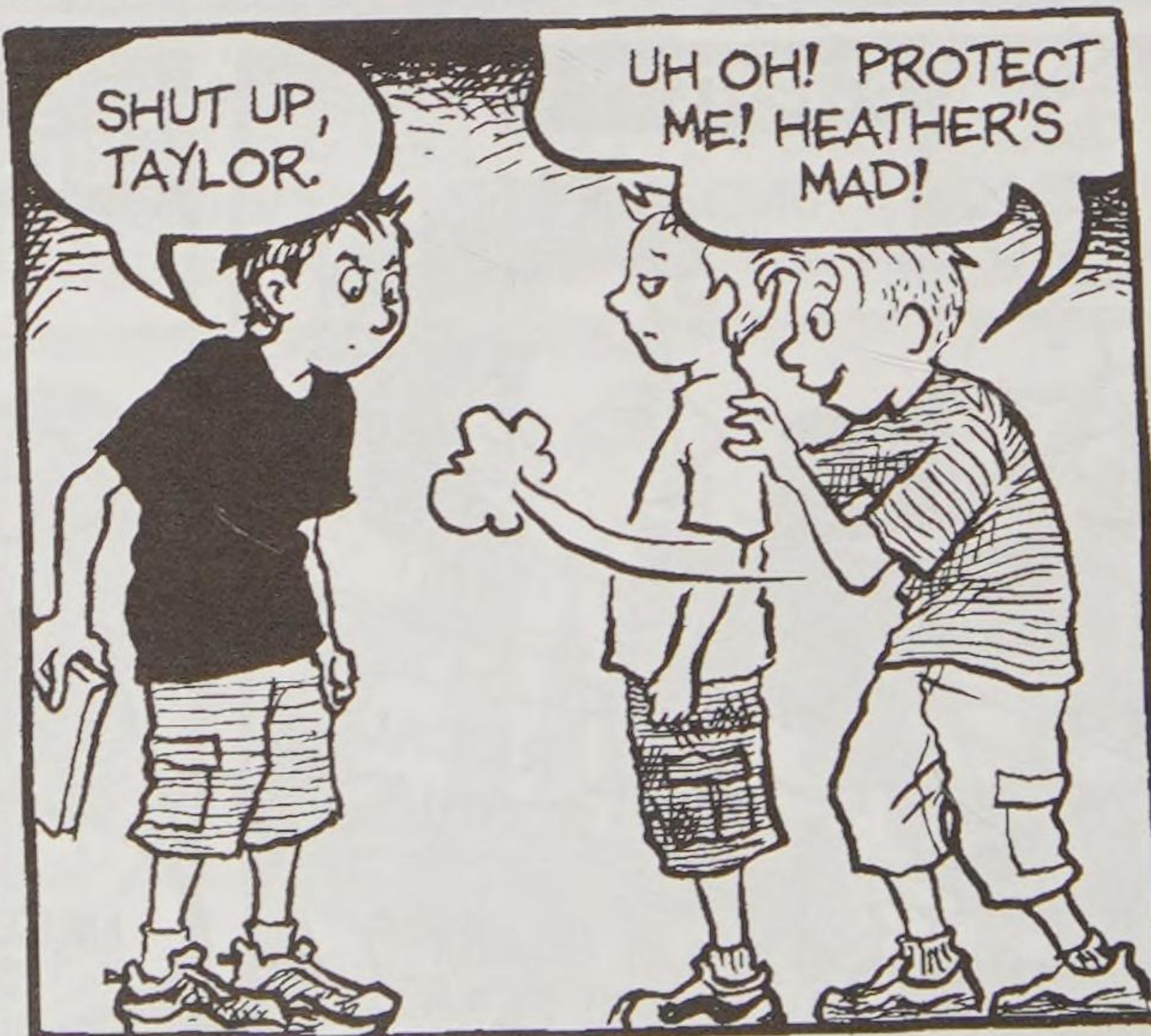


AT NETHER HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY...



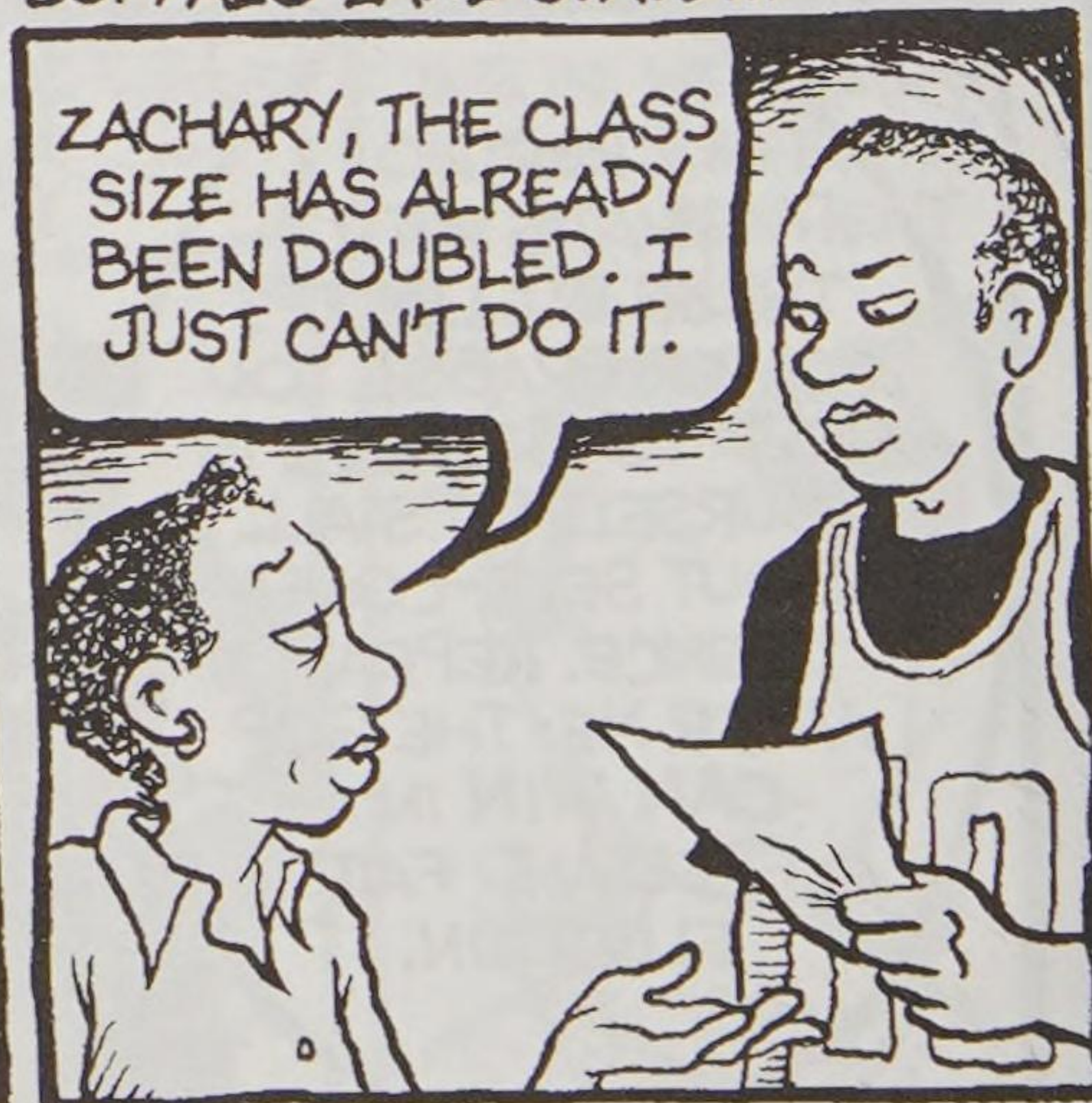
SHUT UP,
TAYLOR.

UH OH! PROTECT
ME! HEATHER'S
MAD!



IN THE HALLOWED HALLS OF
BUFFALO LAKE STATE...

ZACHARY, THE CLASS
SIZE HAS ALREADY
BEEN DOUBLED. I
JUST CAN'T DO IT.



BUT I NEED IT TO GRADUATE!
IT'S THE ONLY SECTION THAT
FITS MY SCHEDULE NOW THAT
I'M WORKING FULL-TIME TO
PAY THE TUITION INCREASE!

OKAY, FINE.
NEXT!

MS. JORDAN, WHEN I SIGNED UP FOR
WORLD LIT, I WAS EXPECTING "BEOWULF"
AND "THE ODYSSEY." BUT THIS READING
LIST LOOKS LIKE **OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB!**
ARE YOU PLOTTING SOME KIND OF MUSH-
BRAINED LIBERAL INDOCTRINATION?

IN THE BUSTLING WORLD OF COMMERCE...

THE SELF-SERVICE KIOSKS HAVE
ENABLED US TO CUT DOWN ON STAFF,
BUT SOME CUSTOMERS STILL FEEL THE
NEED TO SPEAK TO AN ACTUAL HUMAN.
THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.



EXCUSE
ME, DO YOU
CARRY JEWISH
NEW YEAR
CARDS?

I'M SORRY, OUR NEW YEARS
CARDS DON'T COME IN TILL
NOVEMBER. BUT WE'LL BE
GETTING JEWISH CHRISTMAS
CARDS THEN, TOO!

AND
IN AN
OVER-
PRICED,
UNDER-
RENO-
VATED
APART-
MENT
ON THE
FRINGES
OF
CAMPUS...

READY? OR
D'YOU WANT ME
TO GO FIRST?

EVERYBODY MUST
GET BUZZED.



breastiality

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426

10/8

GINGER, YOU LOOK LIKE SUSAN B. ANTHONY. PUT THIS ON.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH A PUSH-UP BRA?

IT WAS IN MY LOST AND FOUND DRAWER.

LOOK, IT'S NOT A DATE. WE'RE JUST GOING TO THE DOG SHOW. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF SHE LIKES GIRLS.

WE BOTH HAVE THIS DOG THING, THAT'S ALL.

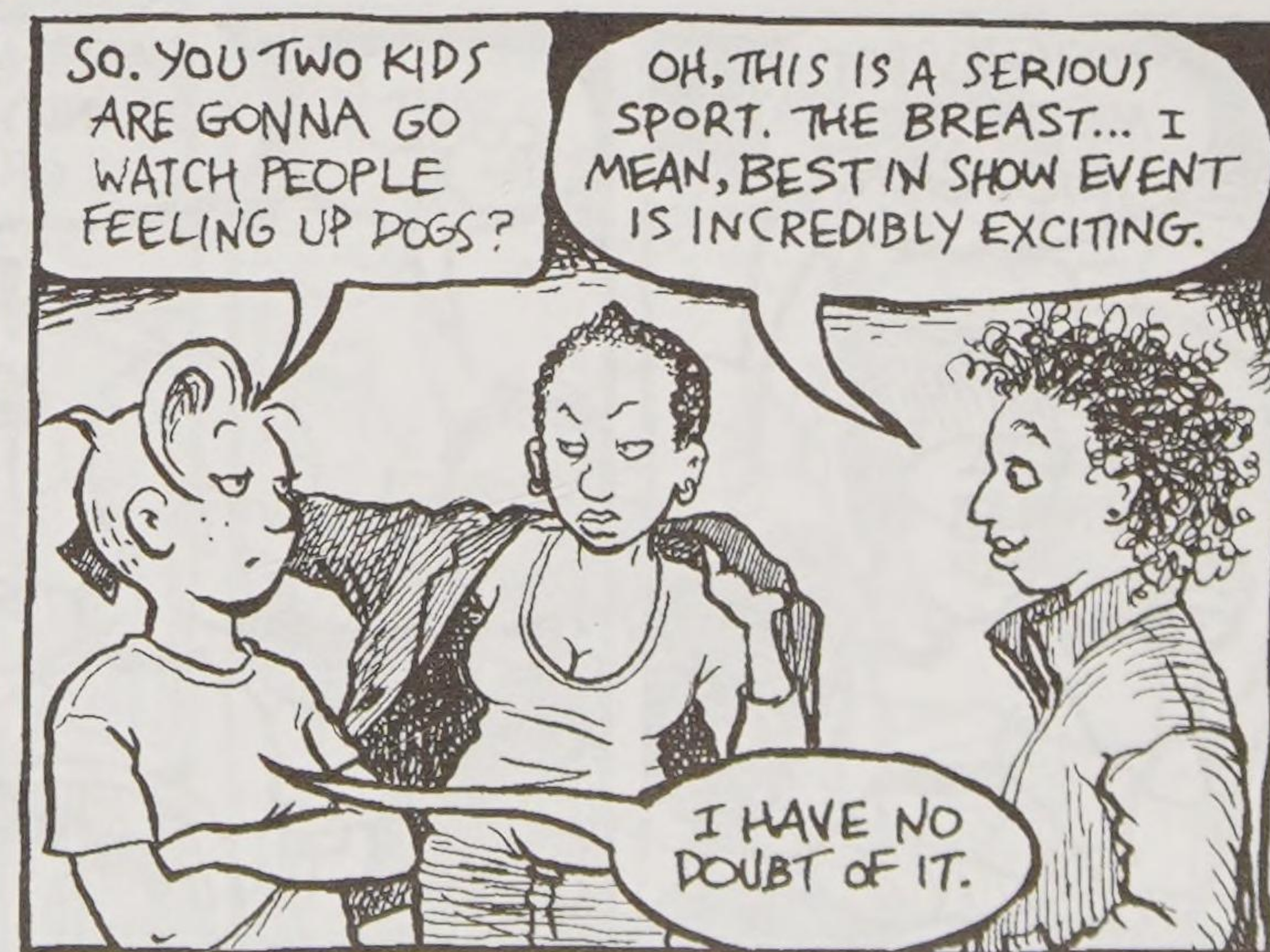
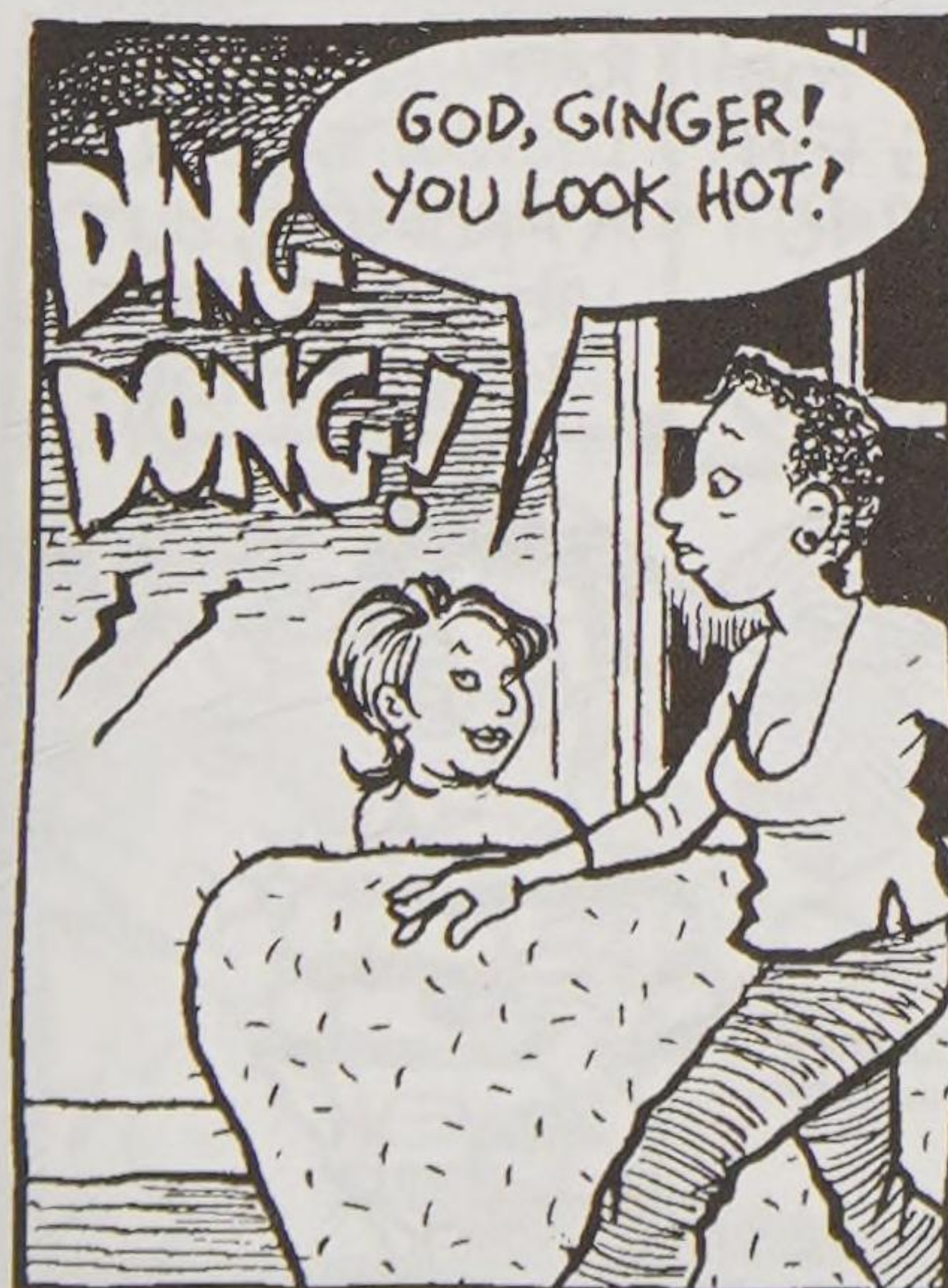
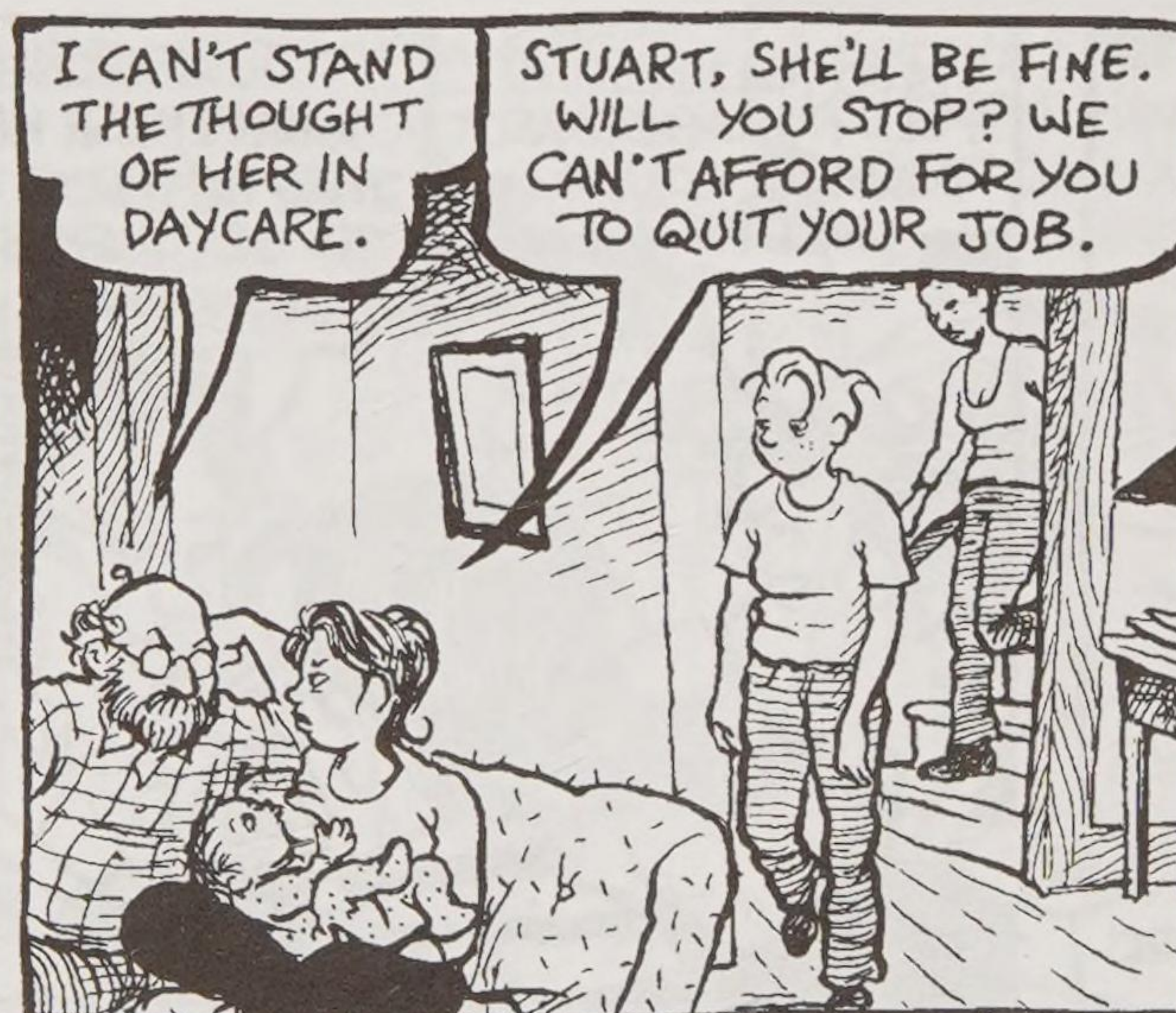
I GUESS IT'S TRUE. MAKE SODOMY LEGAL AND YOU OPEN THE DOOR TO ALL KINDS OF PERVERSIONS.

SO TELL ME. IF IT'S NOT A DATE, WHY ARE YOU WEARING PROVOCATIVE LINGERIE?

I'M NOT. IT'S TOO SMALL. THIS IS RIDICULOUS.

IT'S SUPPOSED TO DO THAT! LEMME GET YOU A BETTER SHIRT. WE'LL FIND OUT IF SHE LIKES GIRLS OR NOT.

MOMENTARILY, DOWNSTAIRS...



how
quickly
they
grow

10/22

427

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I'M SO RELIEVED HIS
POLL NUMBERS ARE
DOWN, I COULD
WEEP.

I JUST WONDER
WHAT FRESH HELL
THEY'RE PLOTTING
TO GET THEM BACK
UP AGAIN.

I'M WITH YOU. BUT
SYDNEY THINKS
WE'RE CYNICAL
CASSANDRAS.

YES, I DO. BUT I'M GRIM-
ACING BECAUSE EVERY-
THING TASTES SO WEIRD
AFTER A TREATMENT. THIS
IS LIKE MOLYBDENUM
VINAIGRETTE.

SYDNEY, LET
ME SEE YOUR
HEAD AGAIN.

COOL.

RAFFI, WHY DON'T YOU GO
DOWNLOAD SOME BEYONCÉ
OR SOMETHING?

NO, STAY, RAF.
TELL ME HOW FIFTH
GRADE'S GOING.

IT'S OKAY. EXCEPT FOR
TAYLOR MAKING FUN
OF ME FOR HAVING
TWO MOTHERS. I'M
GONNA KICK HIS @\$\$.

RAFFI, LANGUAGE.
I KNOW TAYLOR'S
A PROBLEM, BUT
VIOLENCE ISN'T
THE SOLUTION.

YOU'RE GONNA TALK TO HIM LIKE WE DISCUSSED, RIGHT? DO YOU WANT TO PRACTICE WHAT TO SAY?

How 'BOUT, "I'M GONNA KICK YOUR @\$\$, YOU #*&ING @\$\$HOLE."



MEANWHILE, AT SPARROW & STU'S... NO, WHEN I WENT BACK TO WORK, ISABEL ADJUSTED FINE TO DAYCARE. I HATED TO LEAVE HER, THOUGH.



I KNOW! I MEAN, WHAT'S THE POINT OF EVEN HAVING A BABY IF YOU'RE JUST GONNA FARM HER OUT TO STRANGERS EVERY DAY?

DON'T LOOK AT ME. IF YOU WANT US TO LIVE ON MY MEASLY SALARY, GO FOR IT.



UH...SWEETIE, DON'T LIFT THE BABY, SHE'S TOO LITTLE.



YOU #*&ING BITCH!

ISABEL!



UH... SHE PICKED THAT UP AT DAYCARE LAST WEEK.

EXCUSE ME. I HAVE A LETTER OF RESIGNATION TO WRITE.

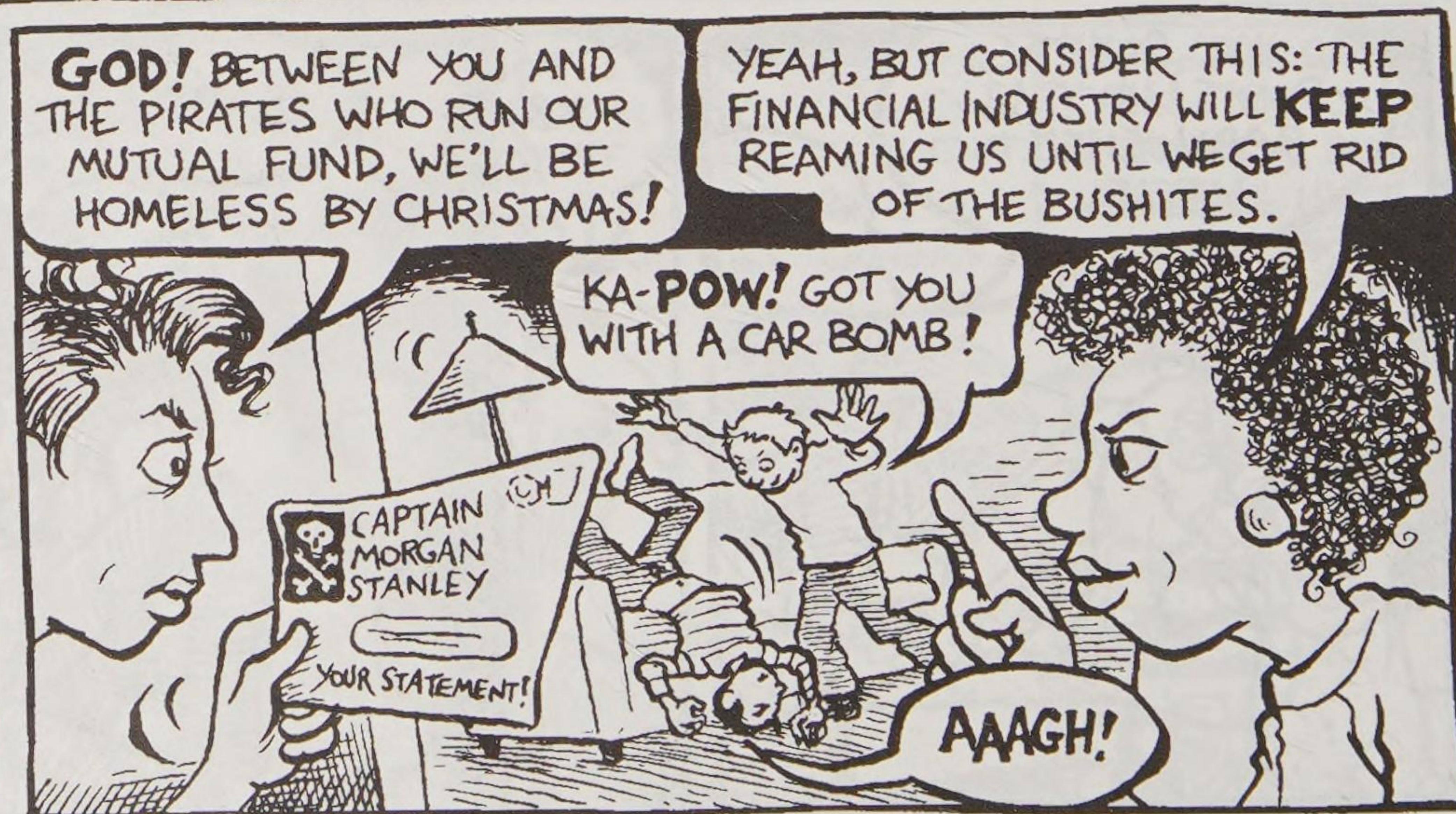


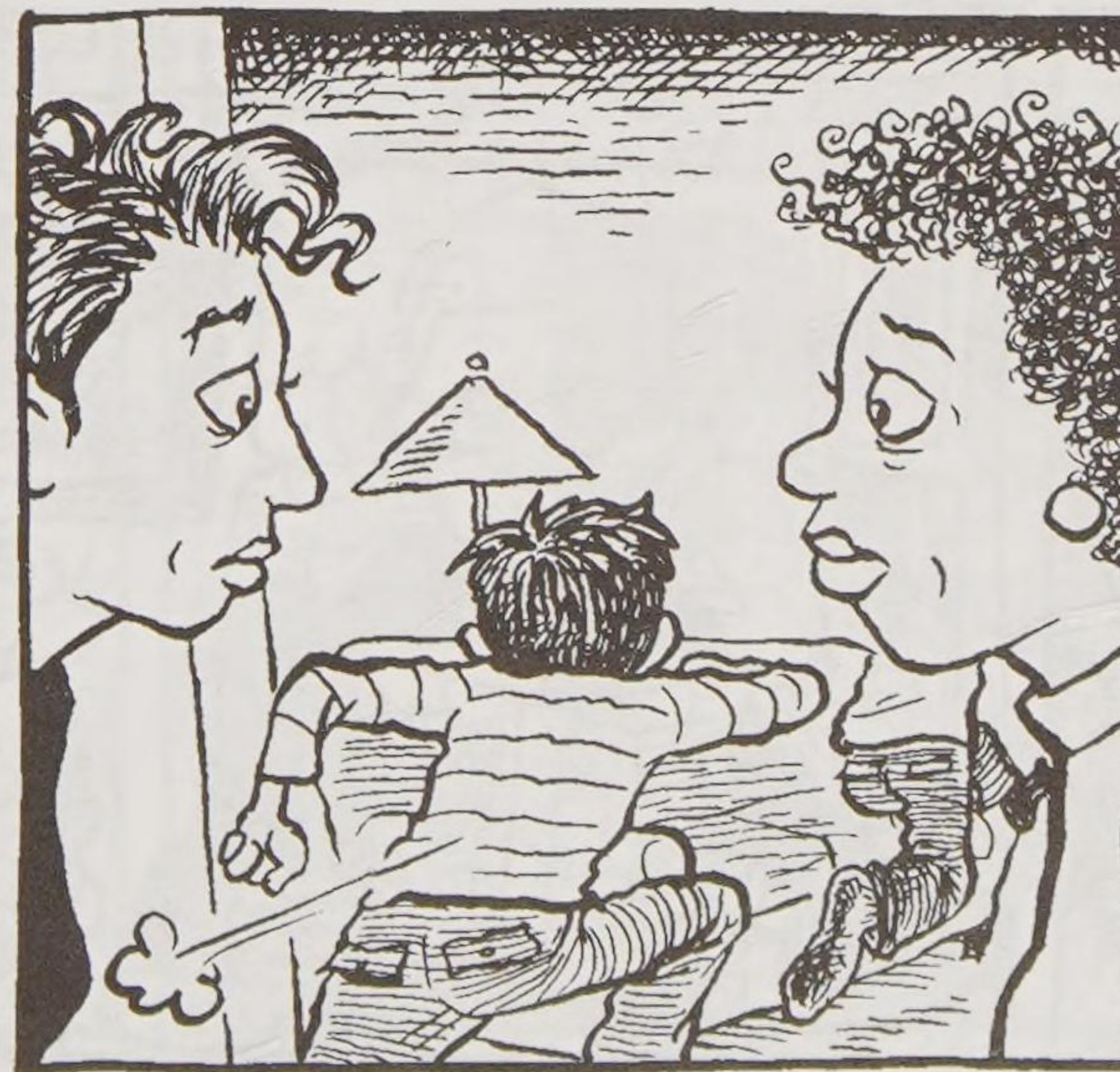
tactics

12/3

428

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small comforts

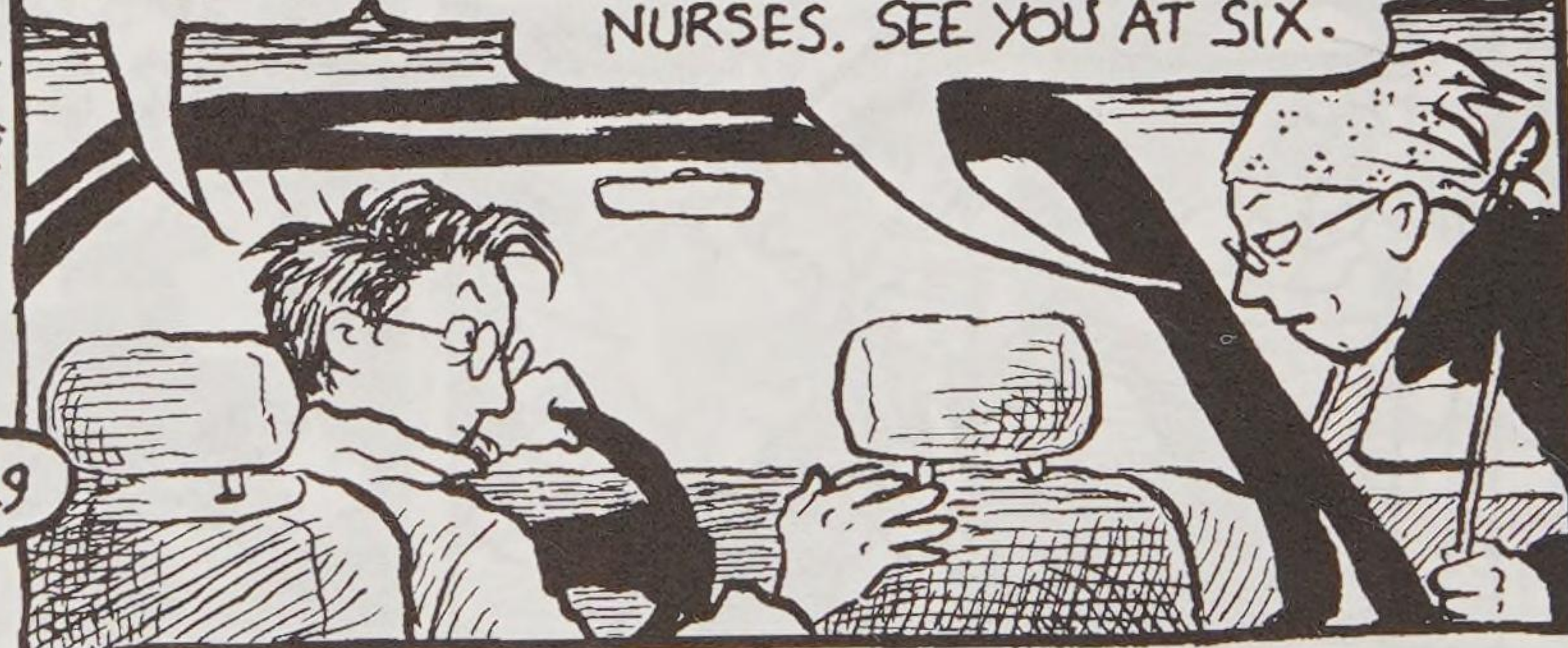
12/17

429

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I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WON'T LET ME COME IN WITH YOU.

YOU'D HATE IT. THE TV'S BLARING, THE PLACE IS LITTERED WITH CUTESY LITTLE ANGELS AND BEARS AND NOW THEY'LL HAVE THE CHRISTMAS CRAP UP TOO. I THINK THE ENTIRE COLLECTIBLE KITSCH INDUSTRY IS KEPT AFLOAT BY CHEMO NURSES. SEE YOU AT SIX.



SHORTLY...

SORRY THAT TOOK SO MANY TRIES, HON. YOUR VEINS ARE GETTING SCARRED.

MASS. GAY MARRIAGE RULING

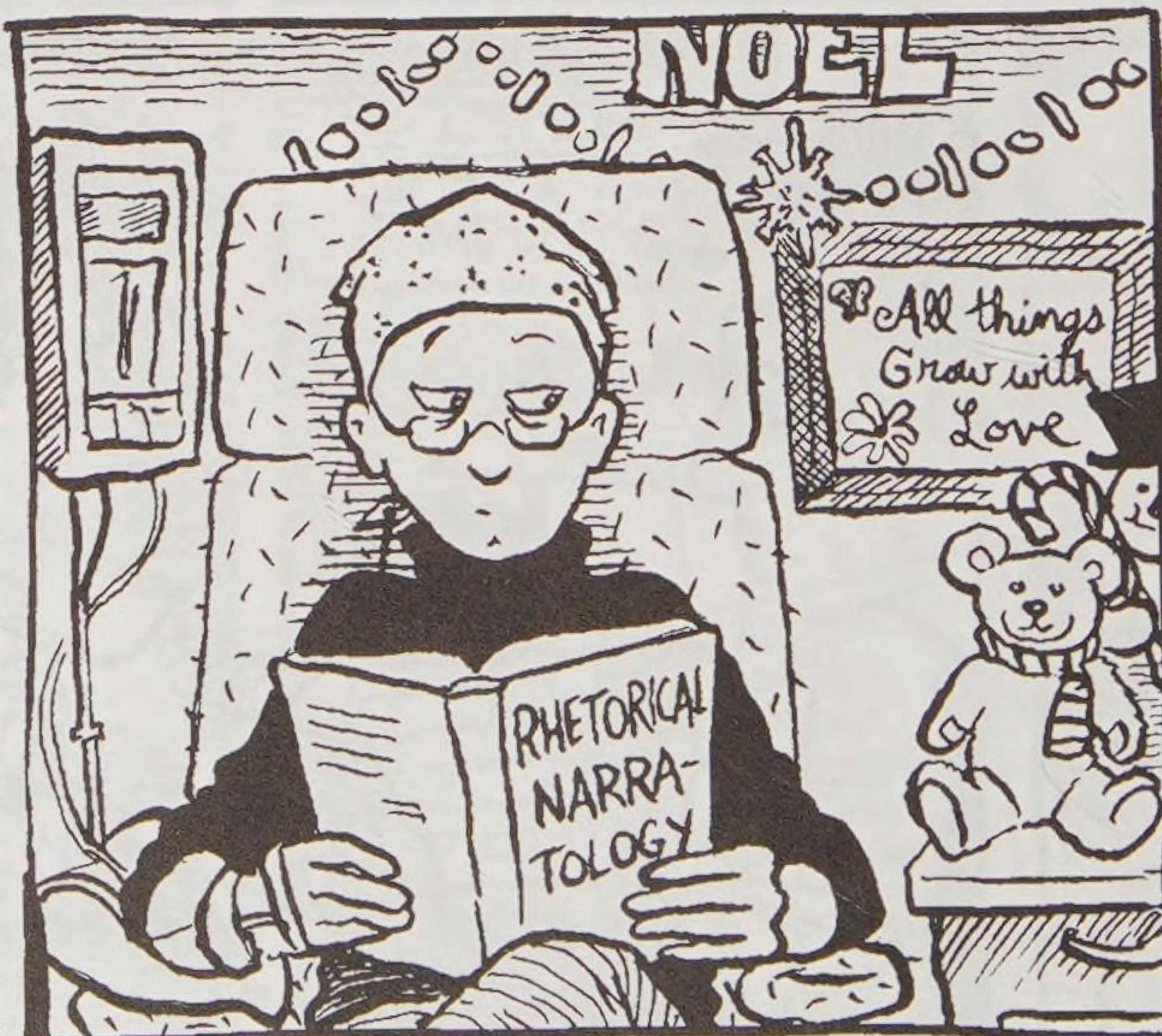
LET'S ASK THE MAN ON THE STREET!

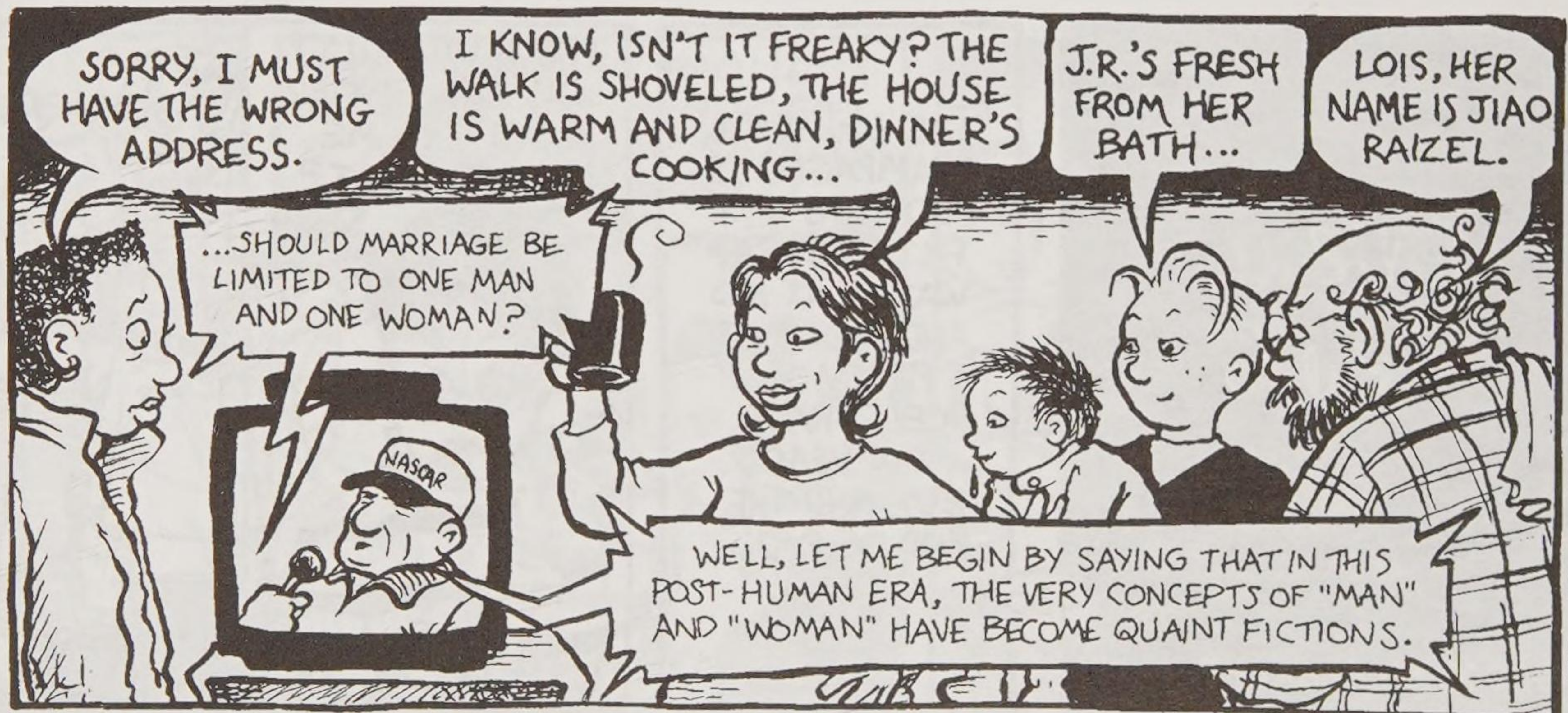


THANKS, JANINE. UH... CAN WE MUTE THE TV?

SURE, DOLL. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK WITH A BLANKET.

SHOULD MARRIAGE BE LIMITED TO ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN?





folie à deux

12/31

430

THE LOW-END CHAMPAGNE IS FLOWING LIKE FILTERED TAP WATER AT MO AND SYDNEY'S PARTY TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE AND THE END OF SYD'S CHEMO.

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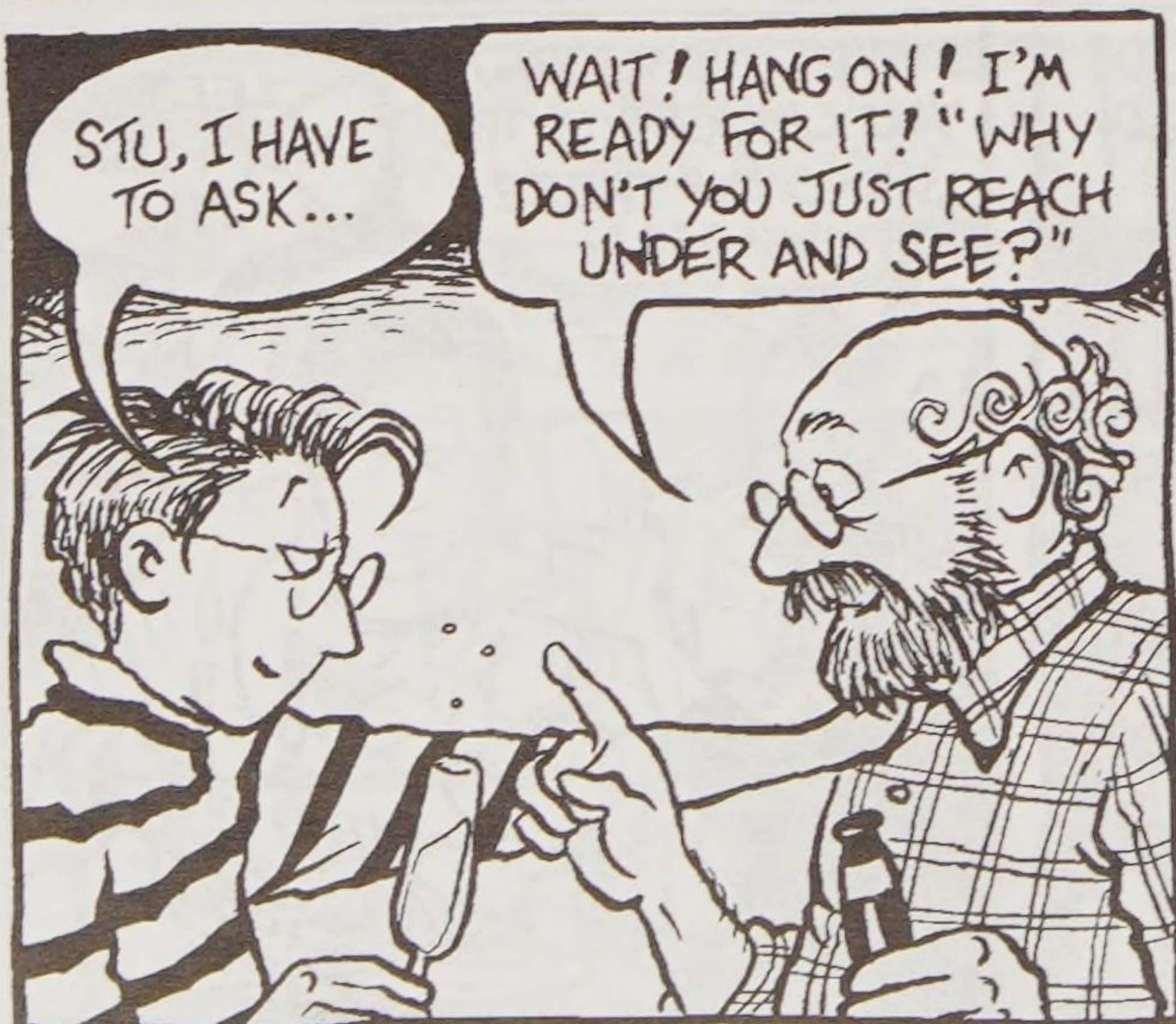
IT'S A UTILIKILT!
LOIS AND GINGER
GAVE IT TO ME.
ISN'T IT GREAT?

IT'S HOT. SORT OF
BRAVEHEART MEETS
CARHARTT MEETS
AGING GOTH.



STU, I HAVE
TO ASK...

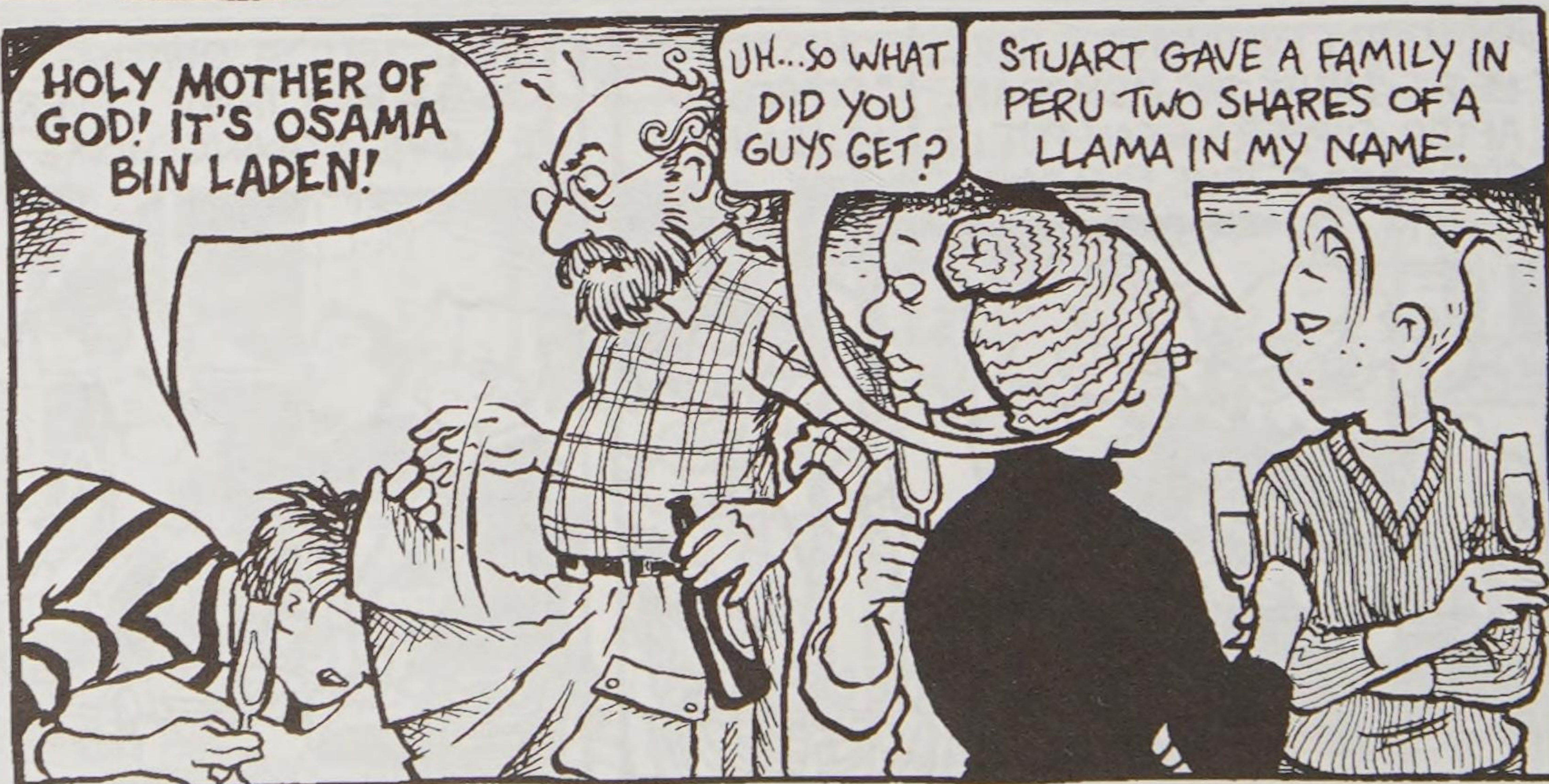
WAIT! HANG ON! I'M
READY FOR IT! "WHY
DON'T YOU JUST REACH
UNDER AND SEE?"

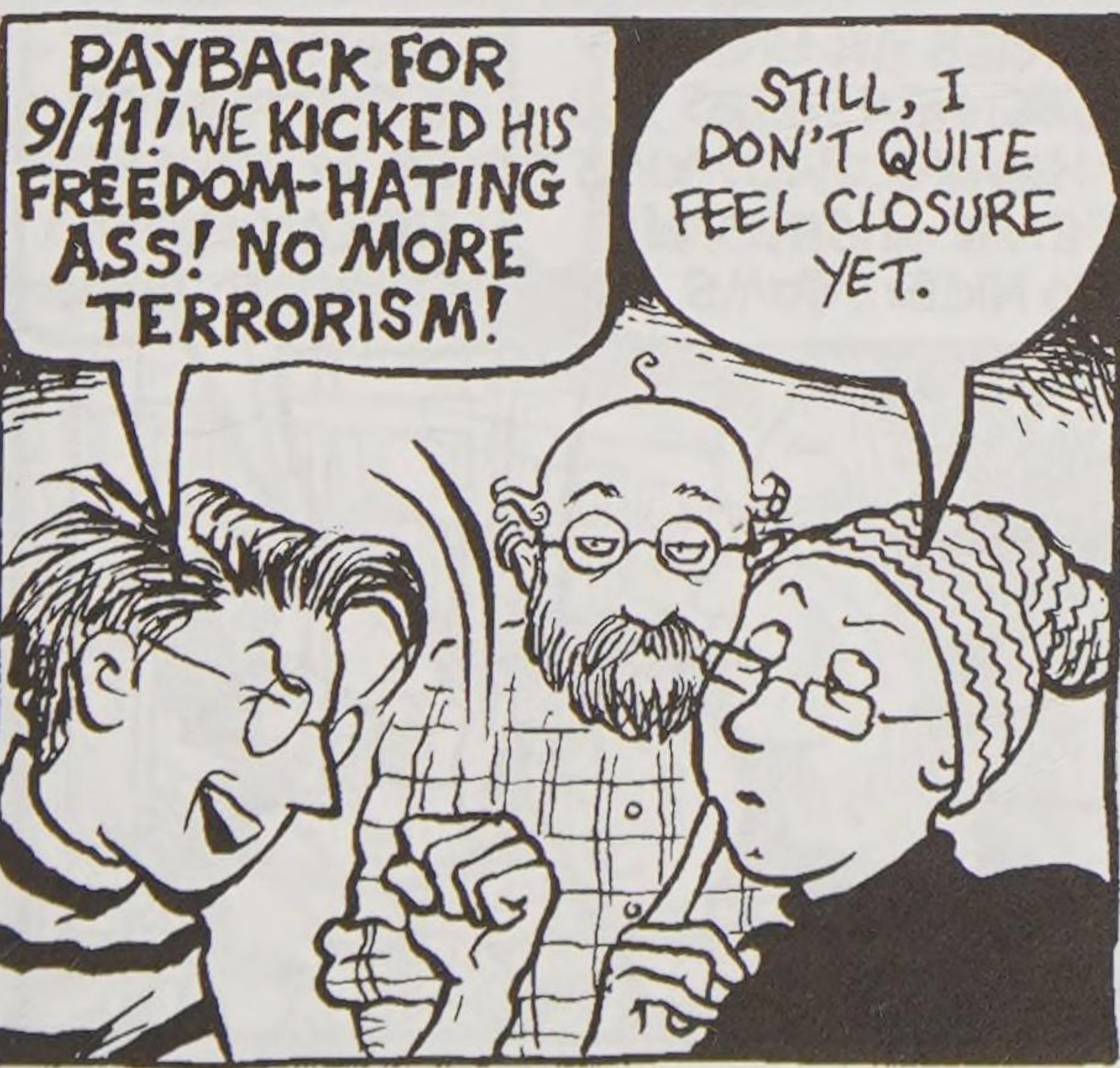
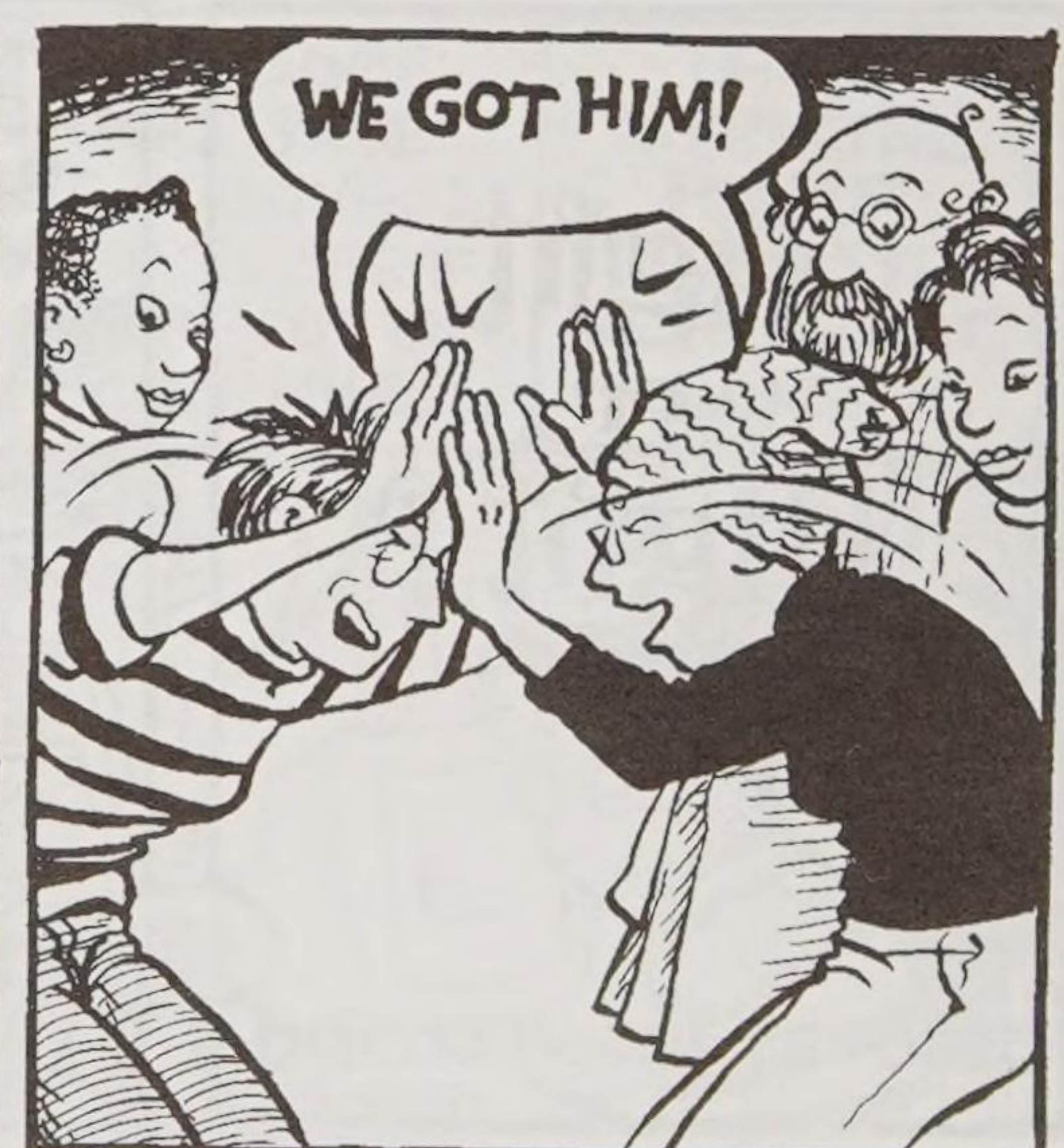
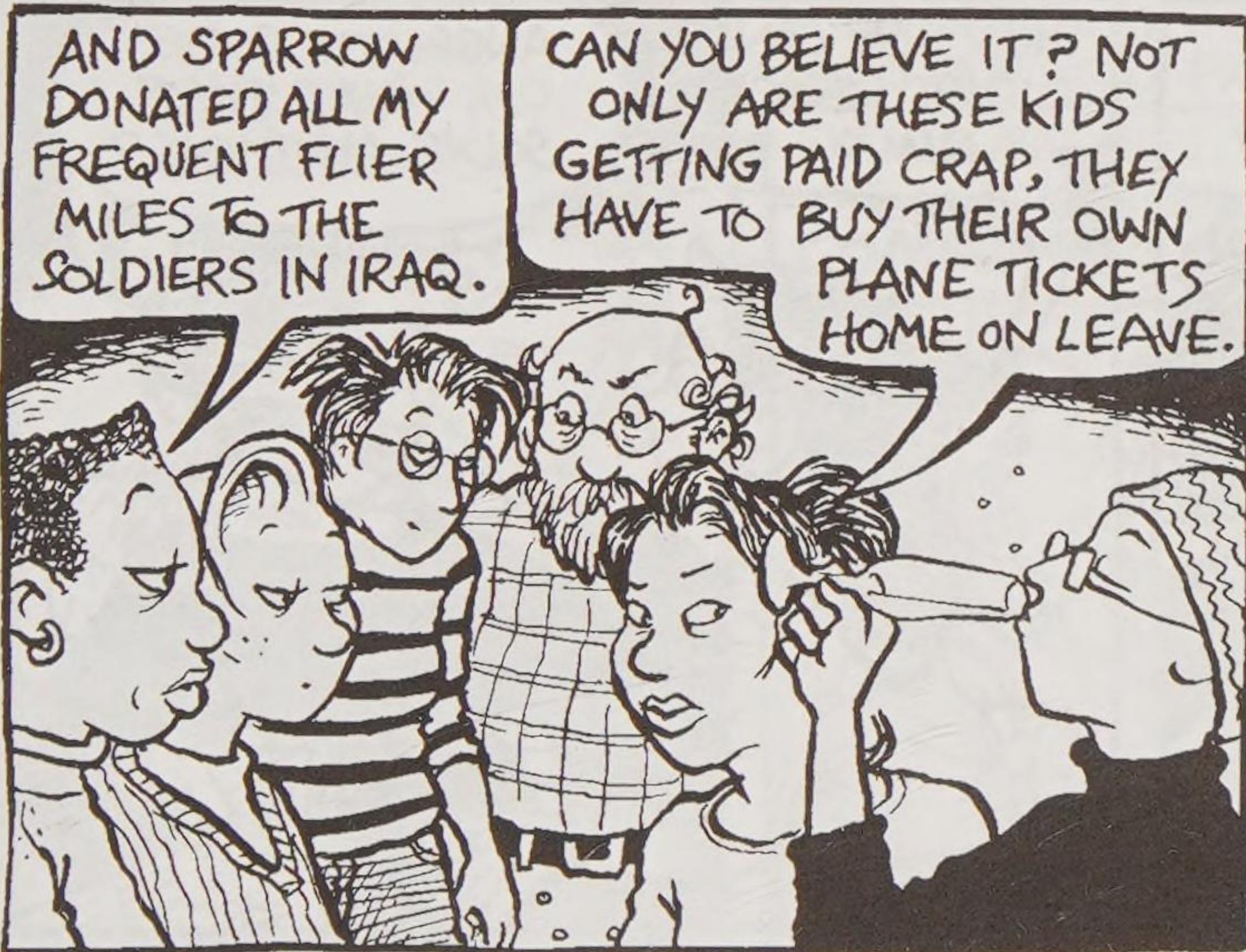


HOLY MOTHER OF
GOD! IT'S OSAMA
BIN LADEN!

UH...SO WHAT
DID YOU
GUYS GET?

STUART GAVE A FAMILY IN
PERU TWO SHARES OF A
LLAMA IN MY NAME.





fight or flight?

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1/14

OKAY, THEN WHAT IF I ATE A PEANUT BUTTER SAMWICH FOR LUNCH, AND **BREATHED** ON HIM? HE'S ALLERGIC! MAYBE HE'D CROAK!

CHATTER AMONG BUSH ADMIN., EVANGELICALS PUSHES THREAT OF FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT TO CODE ORANGE

RAFFI!

THEN WHY CAN'T I JUST WHACK HIM?

ANGELITO, COME ON. WOULD THAT SOLVE ANYTHING?

YEAH!

DON'T YOU THINK HE'D WHACK YOU BACK? AND THEN PROBABLY TEASE YOU MORE?

THEN I'D WHACK HIM MORE!

WELL, THAT'S MY POINT! VIOLENCE ONLY CAUSES MORE VIOLENCE. DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SPEND ALL YOUR TIME FIGHTING WITH TAYLOR?

NOT REALLY. HE SMELLS.

I THINK HE'S AN UNHAPPY KID. MAYBE HE TEASES YOU ABOUT HAVING TWO MOMS BECAUSE HE WISHES HE HAD TWO NICE MOMS.

YEAH, RIGHT. HE'S SO STUPID I'M SURPRISED HE CAN EVEN COUNT TO TWO.



WHY DO YOU GUYS HAVE TO BE LESBIANS?

MEANWHILE, AT THE LOCAL NATIONAL BOOKSTORE, MO'S OLD BOSS PAYS A CALL.

EXCUSE ME, MISS. CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND THE **COMMUNIST MANIFESTO**?

JEZANNA! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?



I HEARD SOME BOUNDERS STORES WERE STRIKING. I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WERE OUT ON A PICKET LINE.

UHH... **"STRIKING PICKUP LINES."** YES WE HAVE THAT, FOLLOW ME.



THOSE STORES ARE IN OTHER STATES. NOTHING LIKE THAT'S GOING ON HERE.

WHY NOT? THE CEO'S GETTING OVER A MILLION A YEAR WITH BONUSES AND STOCK OPTIONS, AND **YOU'RE** NOT MAKING A LIVING WAGE!



YEAH, WELL A SUB-LIVING WAGE IS BETTER THAN **NO** WAGE. NOW WILL YOU PIPE DOWN? YOU'RE GONNA GET ME FIRED!



WORKERS OF THE WORLD, **UNITE!** YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR **CHAIN STORE JOBS!**

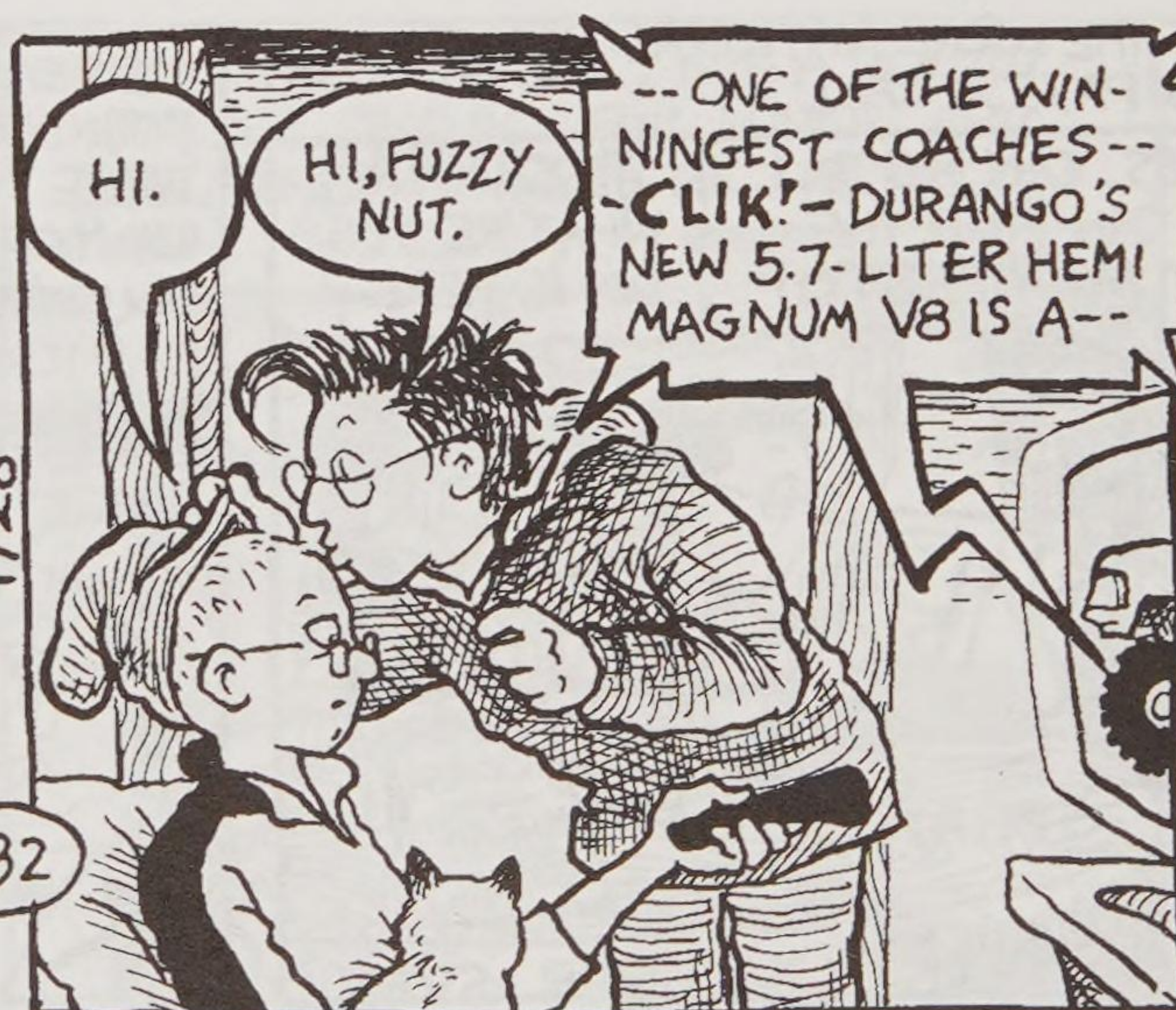


Entertaining a Fantasy

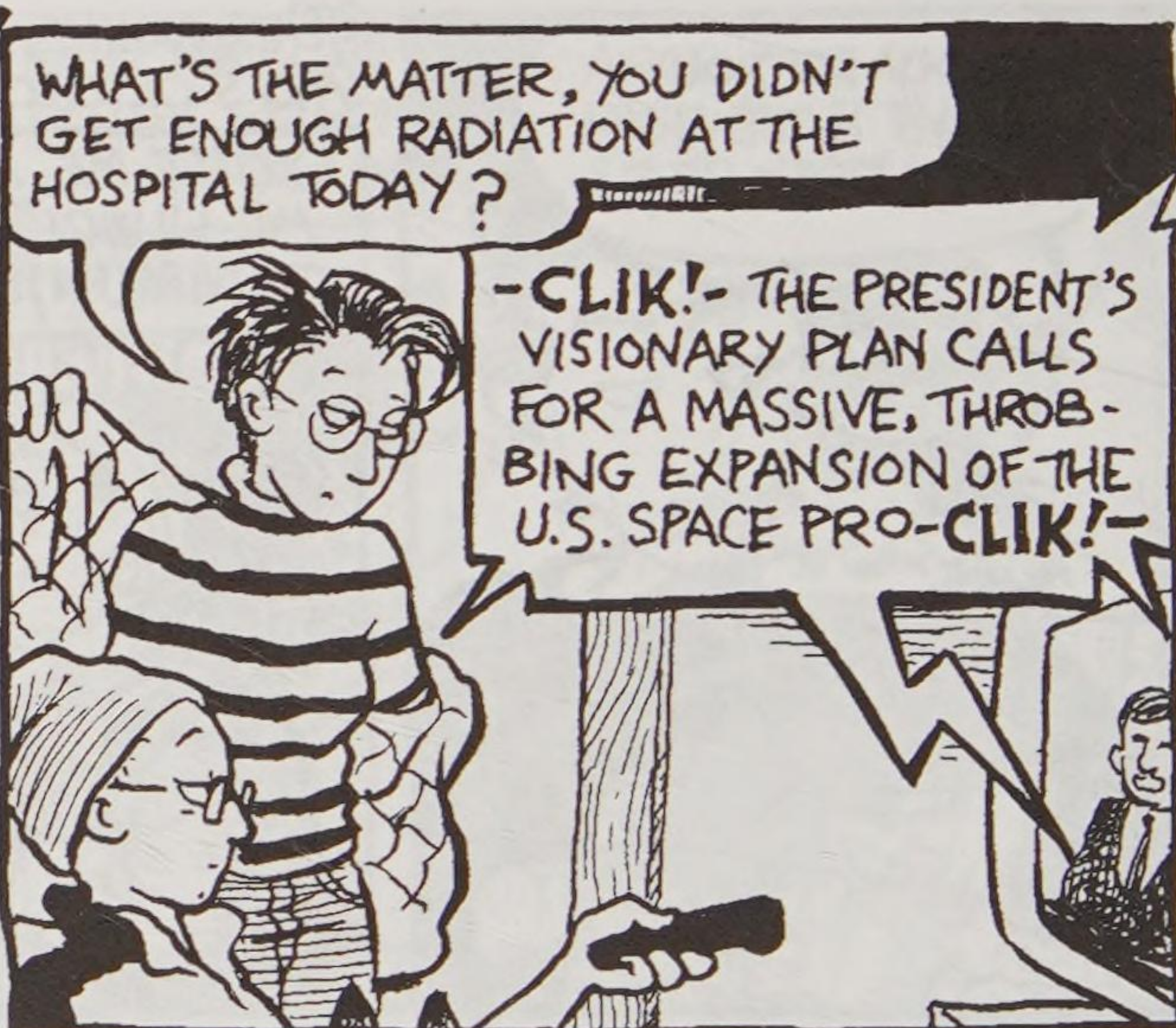
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1/28

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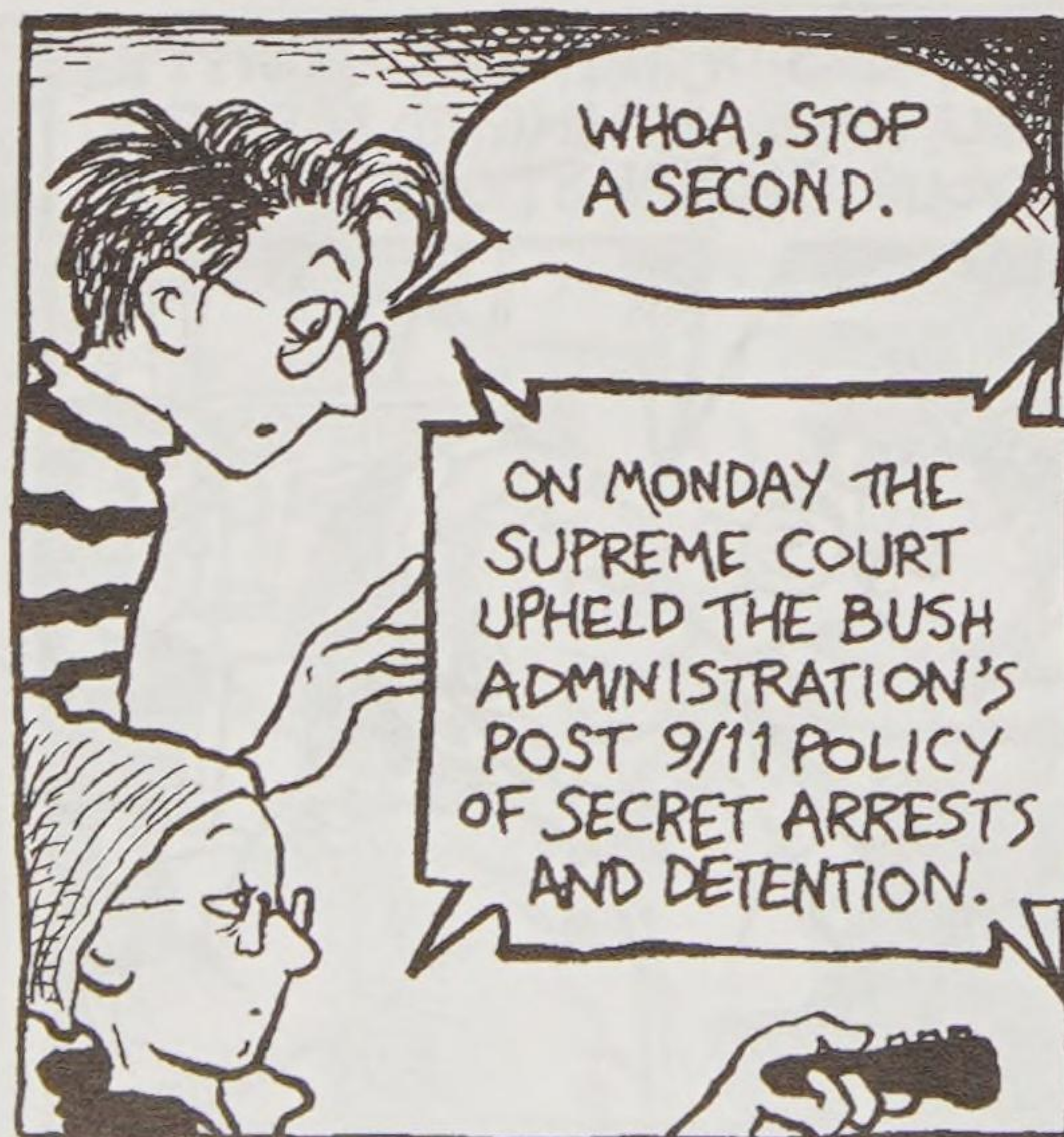


-- ONE OF THE WIN-
NINGEST COACHES --
-- CLIK! -- DURANGO'S
NEW 5.7-LITER HEMI
MAGNUM V8 IS A--



WHAT'S THE MATTER, YOU DIDN'T
GET ENOUGH RADIATION AT THE
HOSPITAL TODAY?

-CLIK!- THE PRESIDENT'S
VISIONARY PLAN CALLS
FOR A MASSIVE, THROB-
BING EXPANSION OF THE
U.S. SPACE PRO-CLIK!-

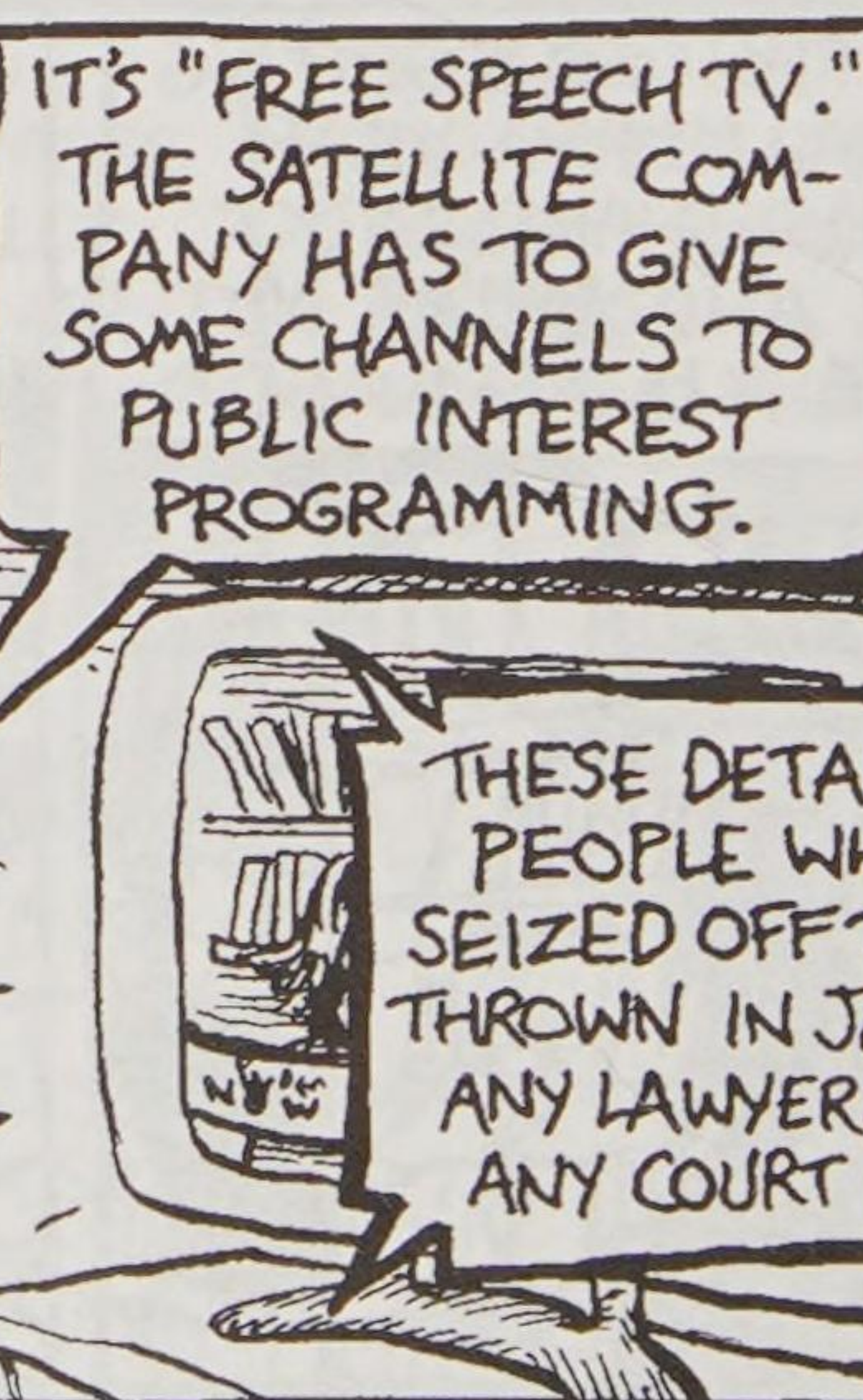


WHOA, STOP
A SECOND.

ON MONDAY THE
SUPREME COURT
UPHELD THE BUSH
ADMINISTRATION'S
POST 9/11 POLICY
OF SECRET ARRESTS
AND DETENTION.



ARE WE RECEIVING TRANS-
MISSION FROM A PARALLEL
UNIVERSE WHERE THE
NEWS ACTUALLY TELLS
YOU WHAT'S GOING ON?

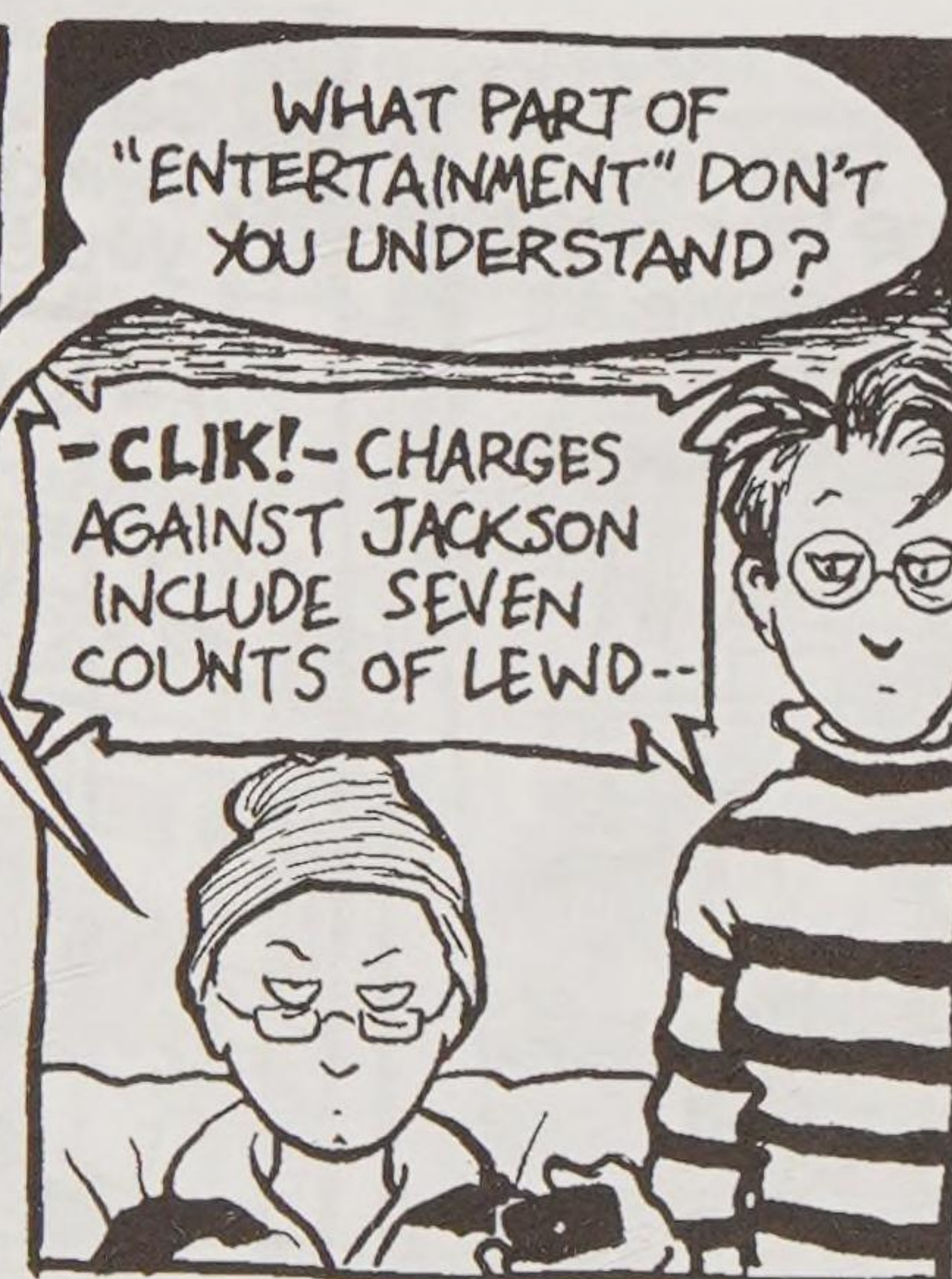
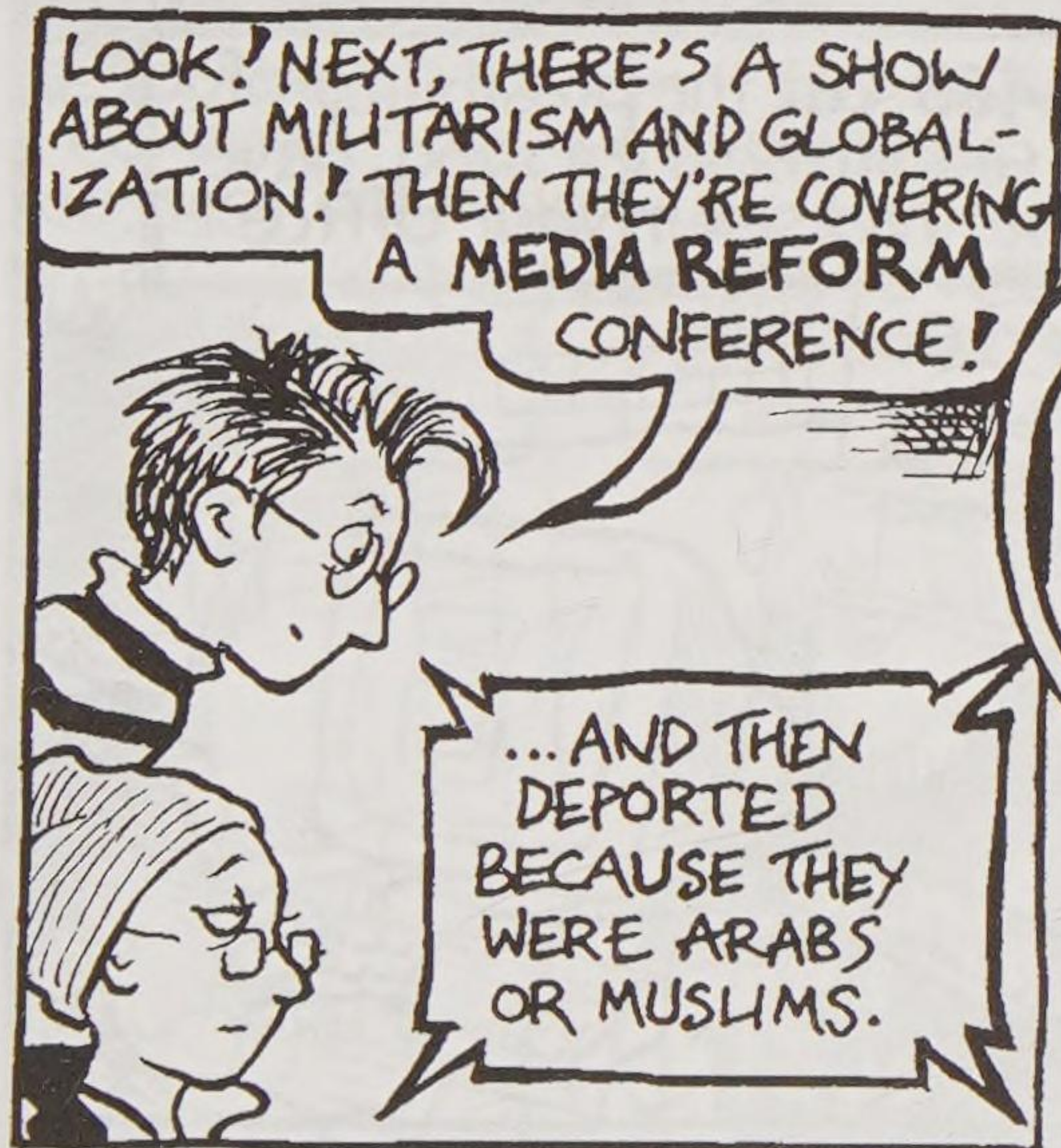


IT'S "FREE SPEECH TV."
THE SATELLITE COM-
PANY HAS TO GIVE
SOME CHANNELS TO
PUBLIC INTEREST
PROGRAMMING.



WOW! IF I KNEW WE COULD
WATCH "DEMOCRACY NOW," I
WOULDN'T HAVE COMPLAINED
ABOUT ALL THE MONEY YOU
SUNK INTO THIS HOME
ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM.

THESE DETAINEES ARE
PEOPLE WHO WERE
SEIZED OFF THE STREET,
THROWN IN JAIL WITHOUT
ANY LAWYERS, WITHOUT
ANY COURT HEARING...



MENTOR TORMENT

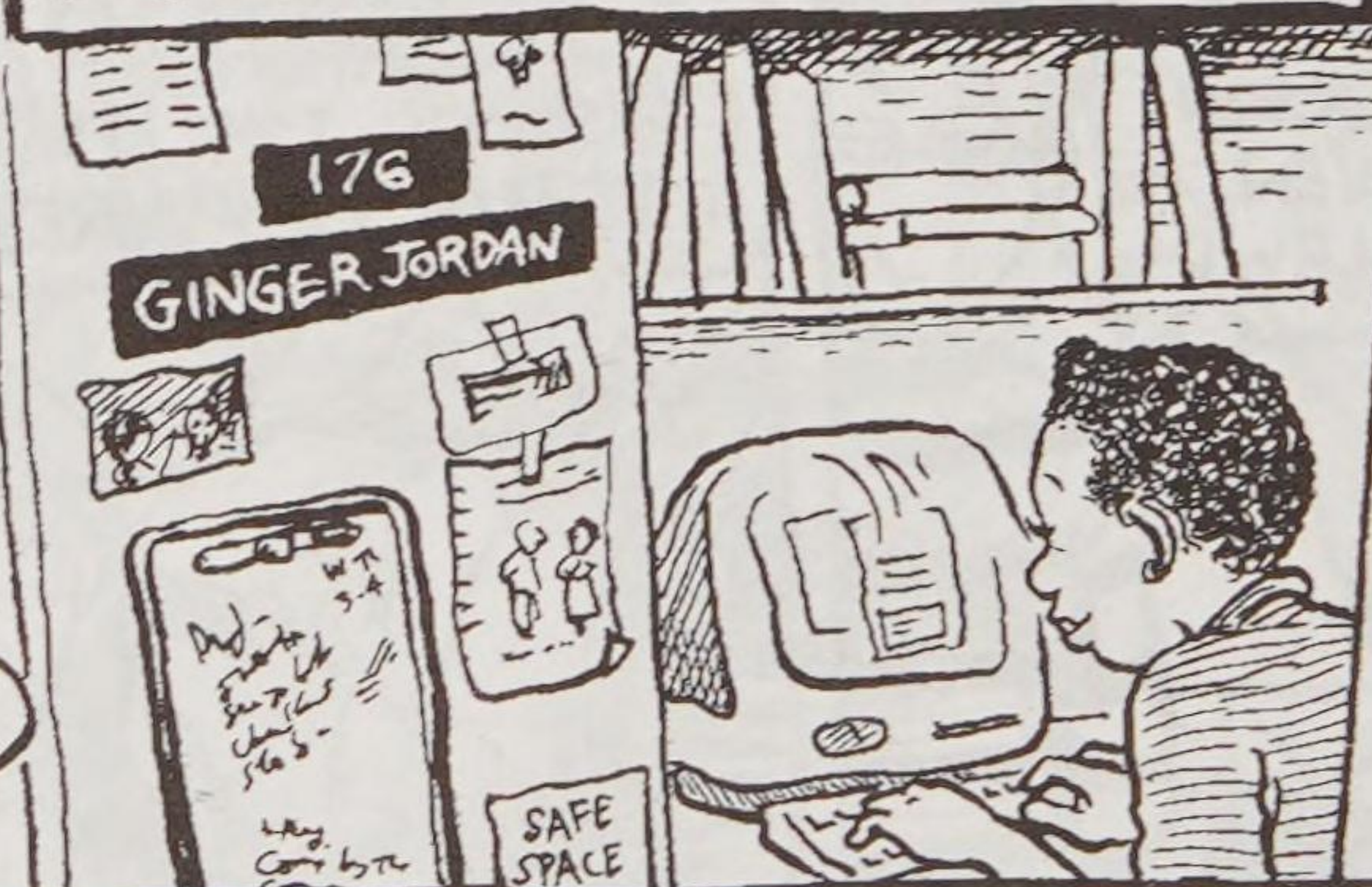
2/11

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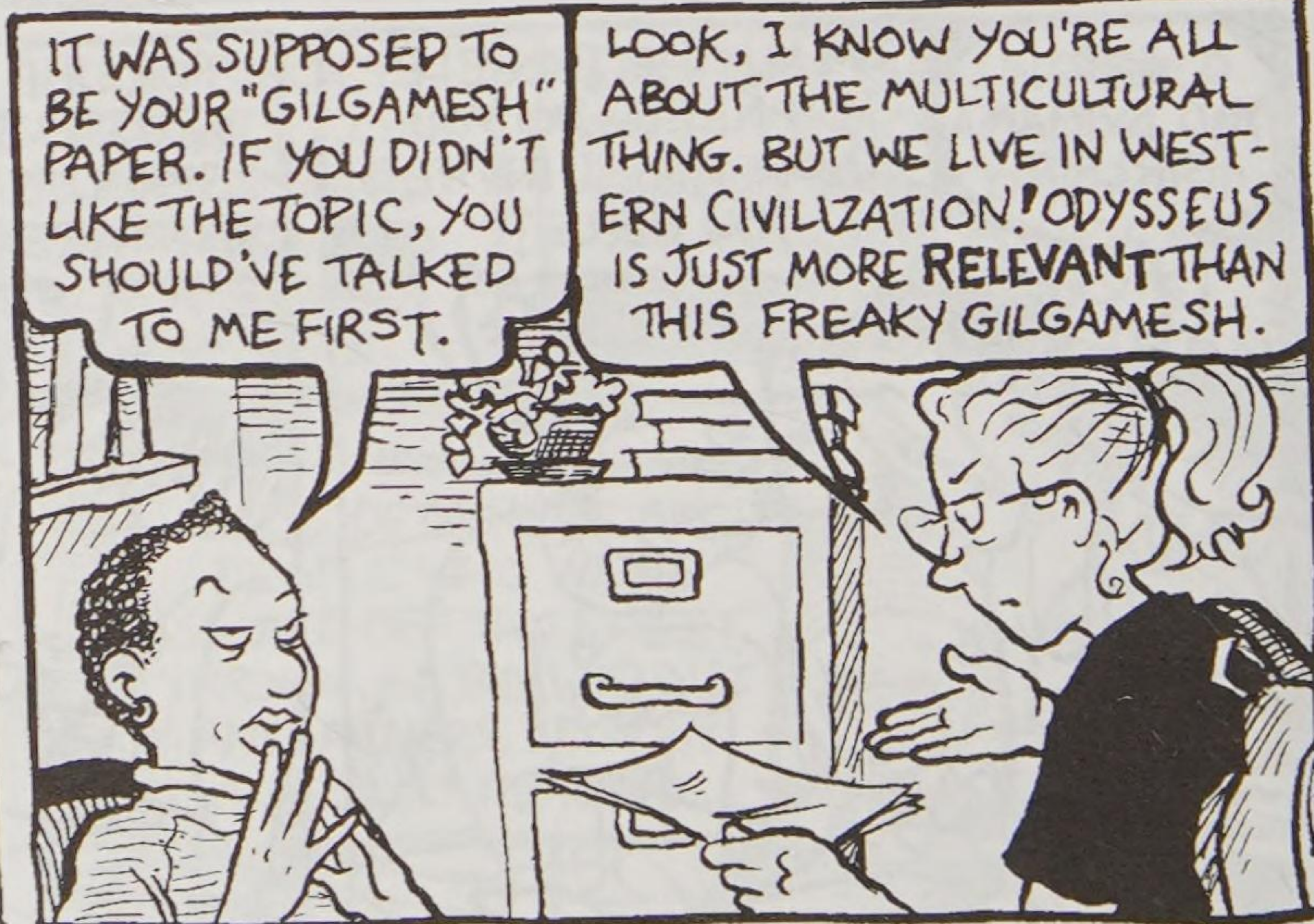
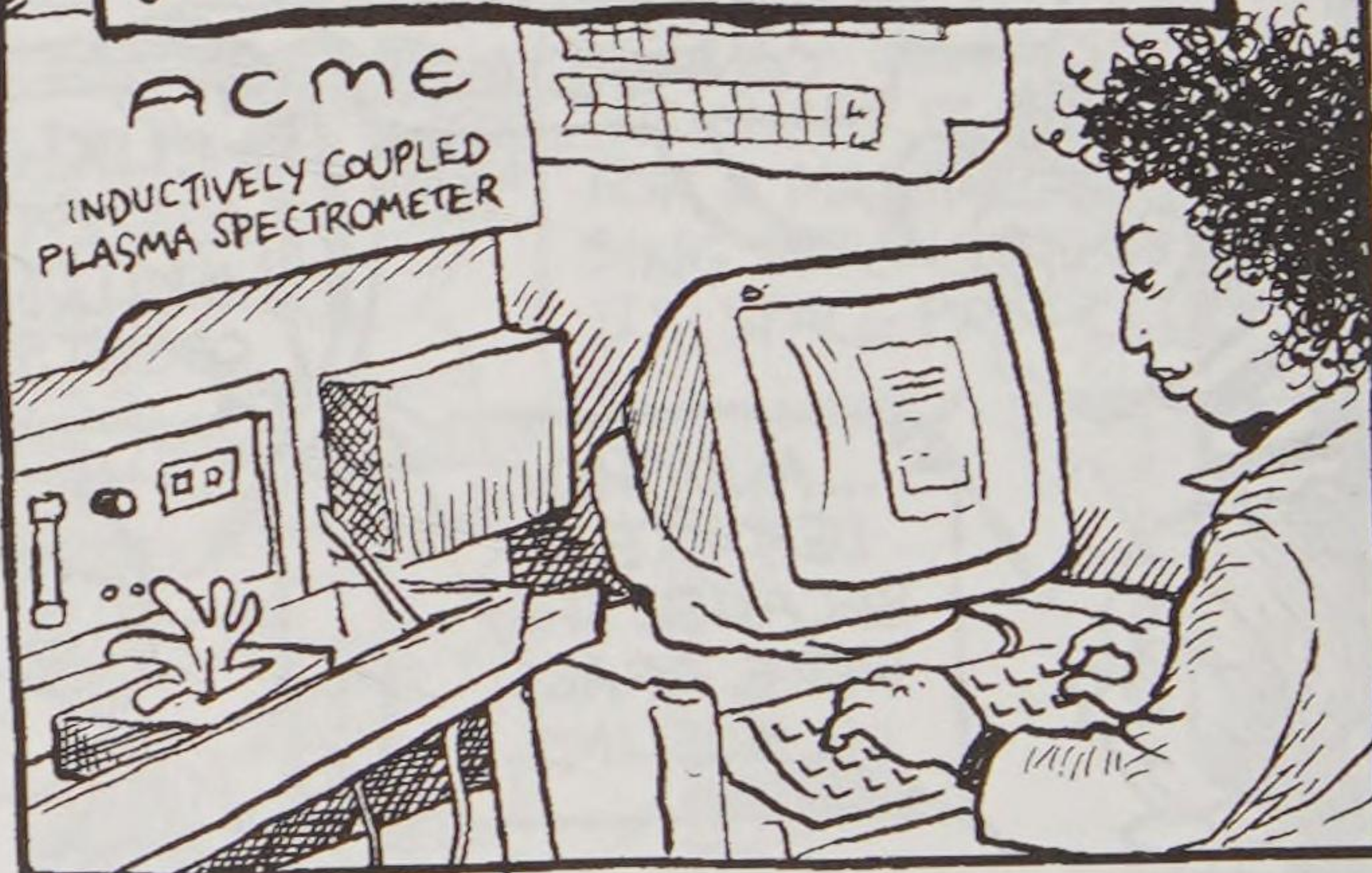
GINGER'S SPINSTER STATUS HAS LAPSED.

Samia465: I'm glad we took our dessert back to my place last night.
DrGinger: I think the people at the restaurant were too.



Samia465: but the possibility of being caught is so exciting. have you ever had sex in your office?

ACME
INDUCTIVELY COUPLED
PLASMA SPECTROMETER



IF YOU WANT TO COMPARE "THE ODYSSEY" WITH "THE EPIC OF GILGAMESH," I'LL RECONSIDER THE GRADE.

COULD YOU RECONSIDER IT TO AN A-MINUS? I NEED TO KEEP MY GPA ABOVE 3.0 TO JOIN THE C.I.A.

DEAN
PEOPLE
SUCK

MEANWHILE, AMONG THE SOCCER SET...

GOOD GAME, RAF.

JUST A MO, BRO.

COACH! WILL YOU SIGN MY DEAN FOR AMERICA SIGN-UP SHEET? I WANT HIM TO BE PRESIDENT!

YOU'RE PIMPING OUT YOUR KID FOR DEAN?

IT WAS HIS IDEA. BUT CLARICE IS ENCOURAGING HIM.

YOU'D THINK SHE'D KNOW BETTER, AFTER HER OWN DEVASTATING EXPERIENCE CAMPAIGNING FOR MCGOVERN WHEN SHE WAS ELEVEN.

TYPICAL. SHE'S PERPETUATING THE CYCLE OF TRAUMA.

HE'LL MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE!

IF YOU DECIDE TO HAVE AN INTERVENTION, I'M THERE.

only
disconnect

2/25

434

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HELLO,
SHABOOK-
ADOOK!

UH... HI! WHAT
PUT YOU IN SUCH
A GOOD MOOD?

CHECK IT OUT! I GOT THIS FANCY CD
PLAYER AND HOOKED THE TV UP TO IT.

OH.

HOSE

I CAN CONNECT IT TO
MY LAPTOP TOO. AND
MY IPUD, BUT I NEED TO
GET A SPECIAL CABLE.
GREAT SOUND, HUH?

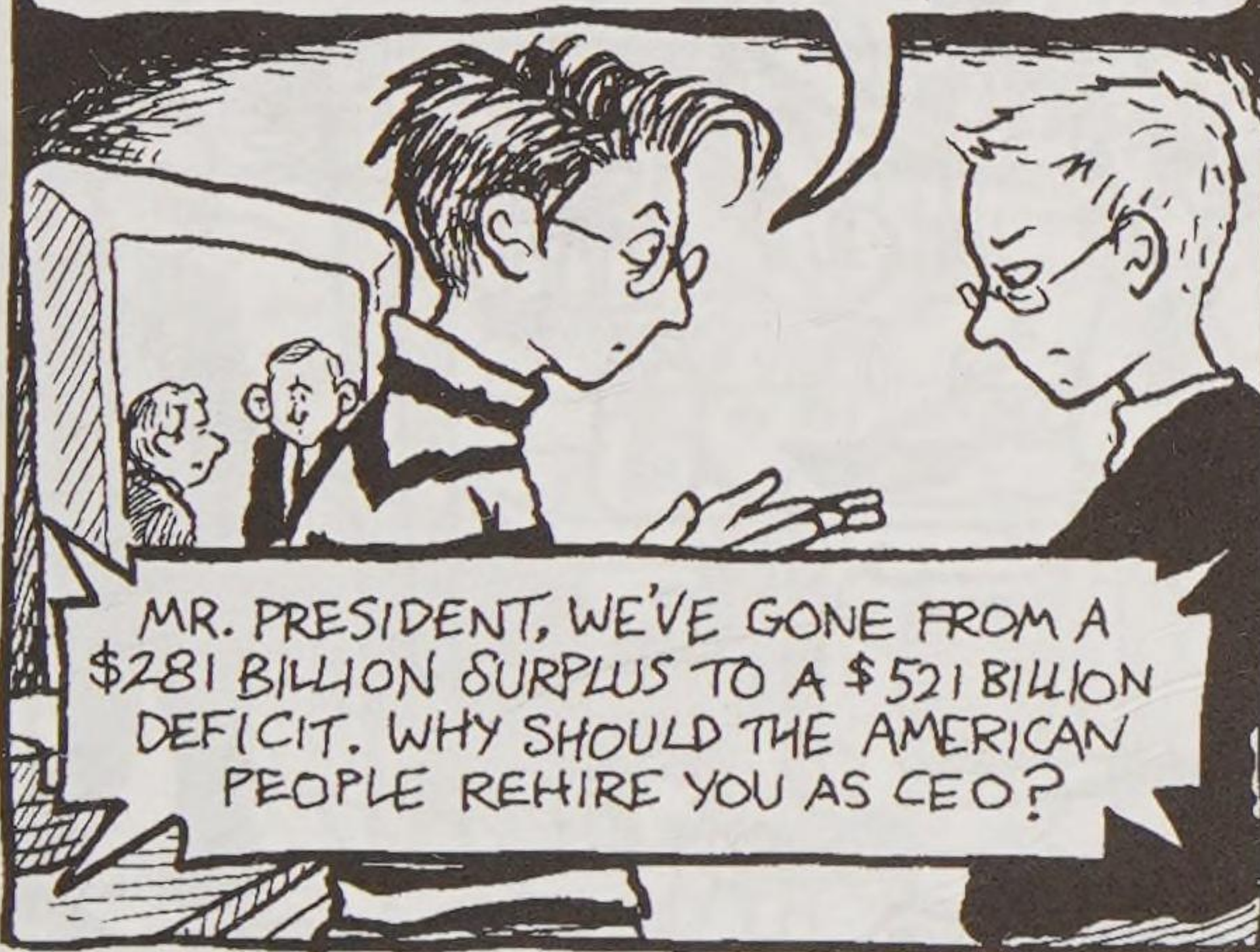
OKAY! **THAT'S** IT! I'VE KEPT MY MOUTH
SHUT ABOUT ALL THE CRAP YOU'VE
BOUGHT SINCE YOU GOT SICK, BECAUSE
IT SEEMED TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER,
IF ONLY FOR A NANOSECOND.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WHEN WE SEE A THREAT, WE
DEAL WITH THOSE THREATS BEFORE THEY BECOME
IMMINENT. IT'S TOO LATE IF THEY BECOME IMMINENT.

BUT YOU HAVE TO **STOP!** I DON'T
EVEN WANT TO **THINK** ABOUT HOW
MUCH DEBT YOU'RE IN!

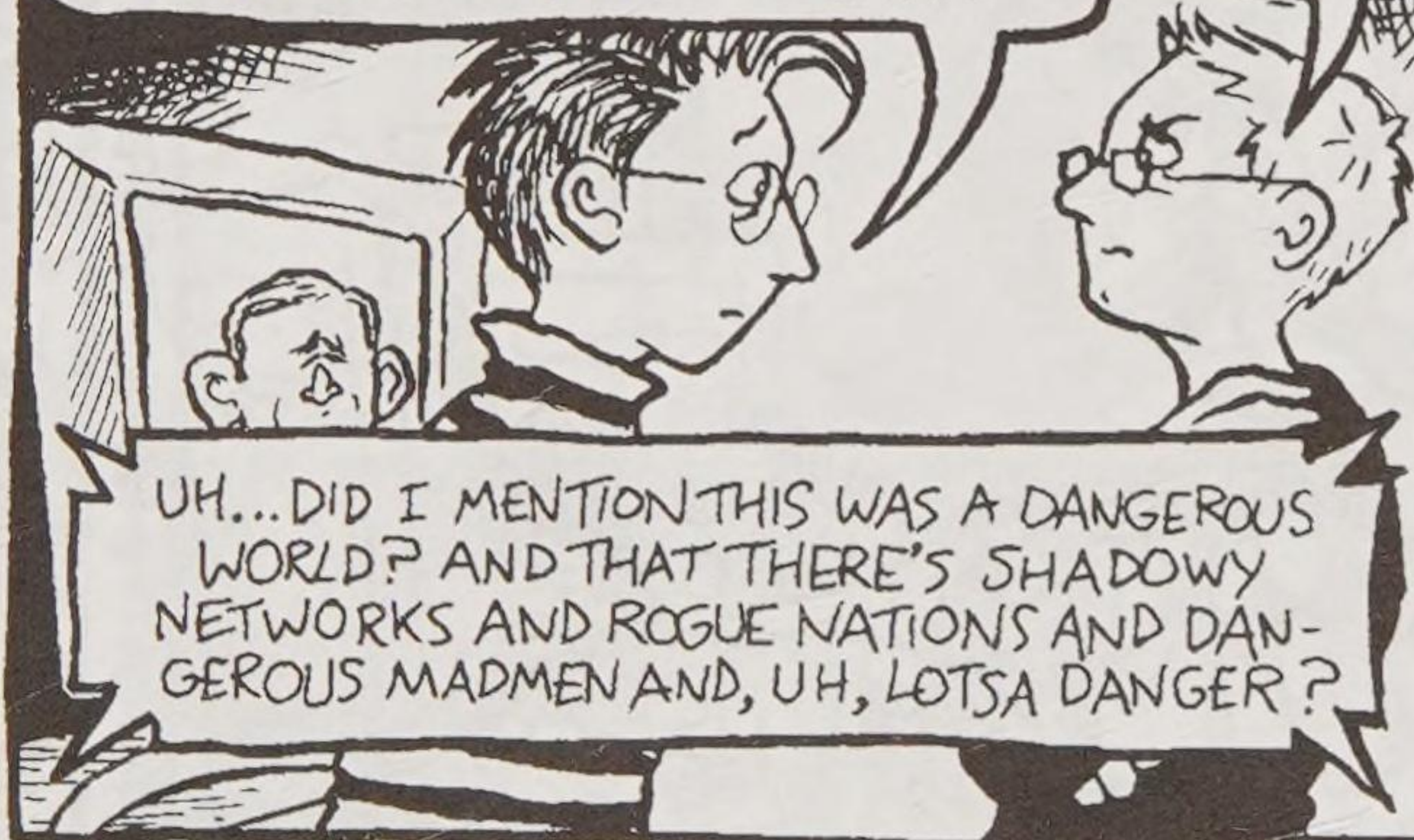
THAT'S WHY I'M LAUNCHING A GROUND
OFFENSIVE ON MASSACHUSETTS.

I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED. BUT ALL THIS **STUFF** ISN'T GONNA KEEP YOU SAFE. NEITHER IS GOING BANKRUPT!



MR. PRESIDENT, WE'VE GONE FROM A \$281 BILLION SURPLUS TO A \$521 BILLION DEFICIT. WHY SHOULD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE REHIRE YOU AS CEO?

THE ONLY THING THAT'LL GIVE YOU ANY **REAL** SECURITY IS REACHING OUT TO PEOPLE. I WISH YOU'D GO TO THAT LESBIAN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP.



UH... DID I MENTION THIS WAS A DANGEROUS WORLD? AND THAT THERE'S SHADOWY NETWORKS AND ROGUE NATIONS AND DANGEROUS MADMEN AND, UH, LOTS A DANGER?

PUH-LEASE.

THEN TALK TO **ME!** Y'KNOW, YOU SURROUND YOURSELF WITH ALL THESE COMMUNICATION DEVICES, YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH "CONNECTIVITY." BUT YOU WON'T CONNECT WITH **ME!**



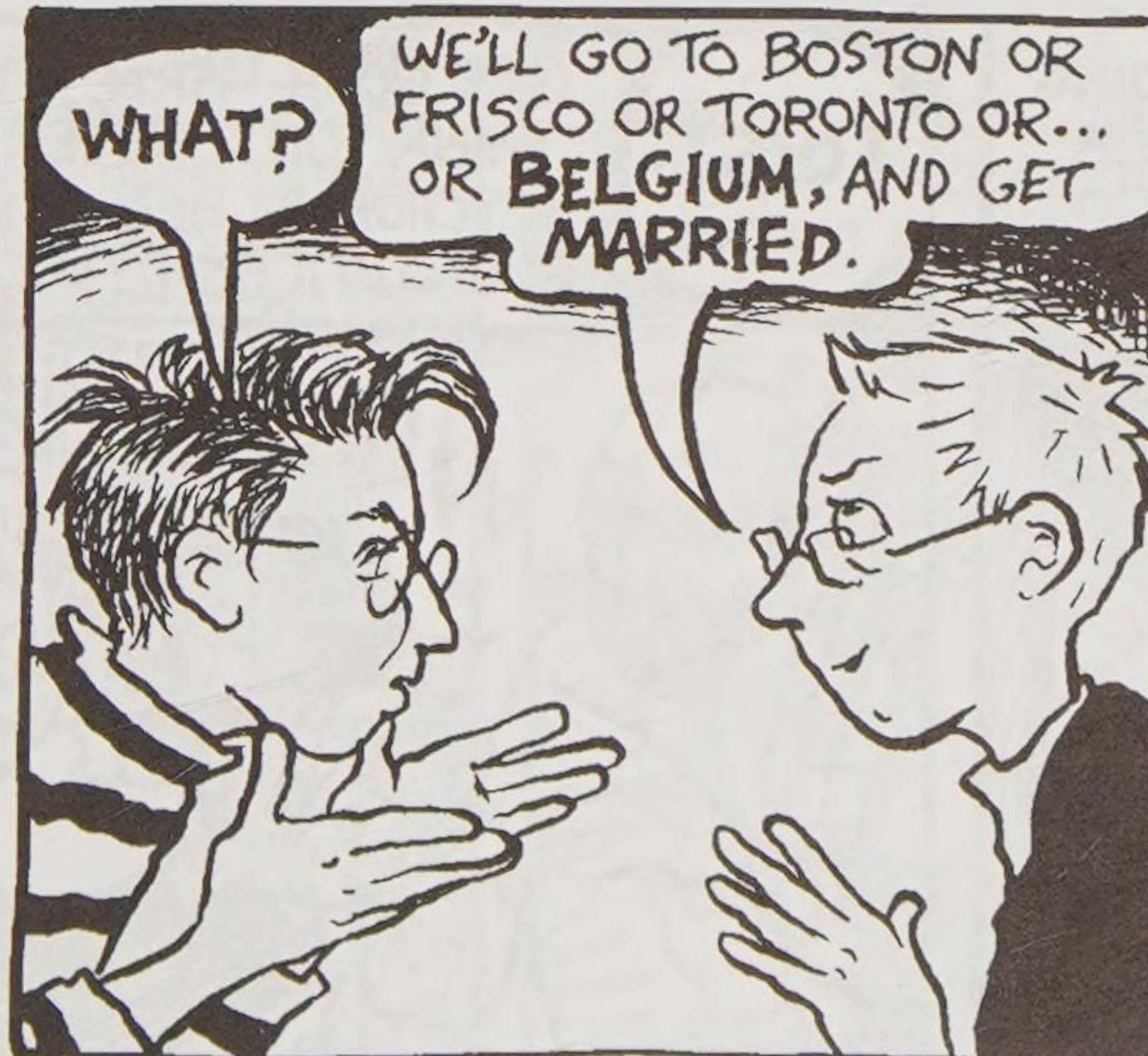
YES, ACTUALLY, ABOUT 521 BILLION TIMES.

LET'S GET MARRIED.



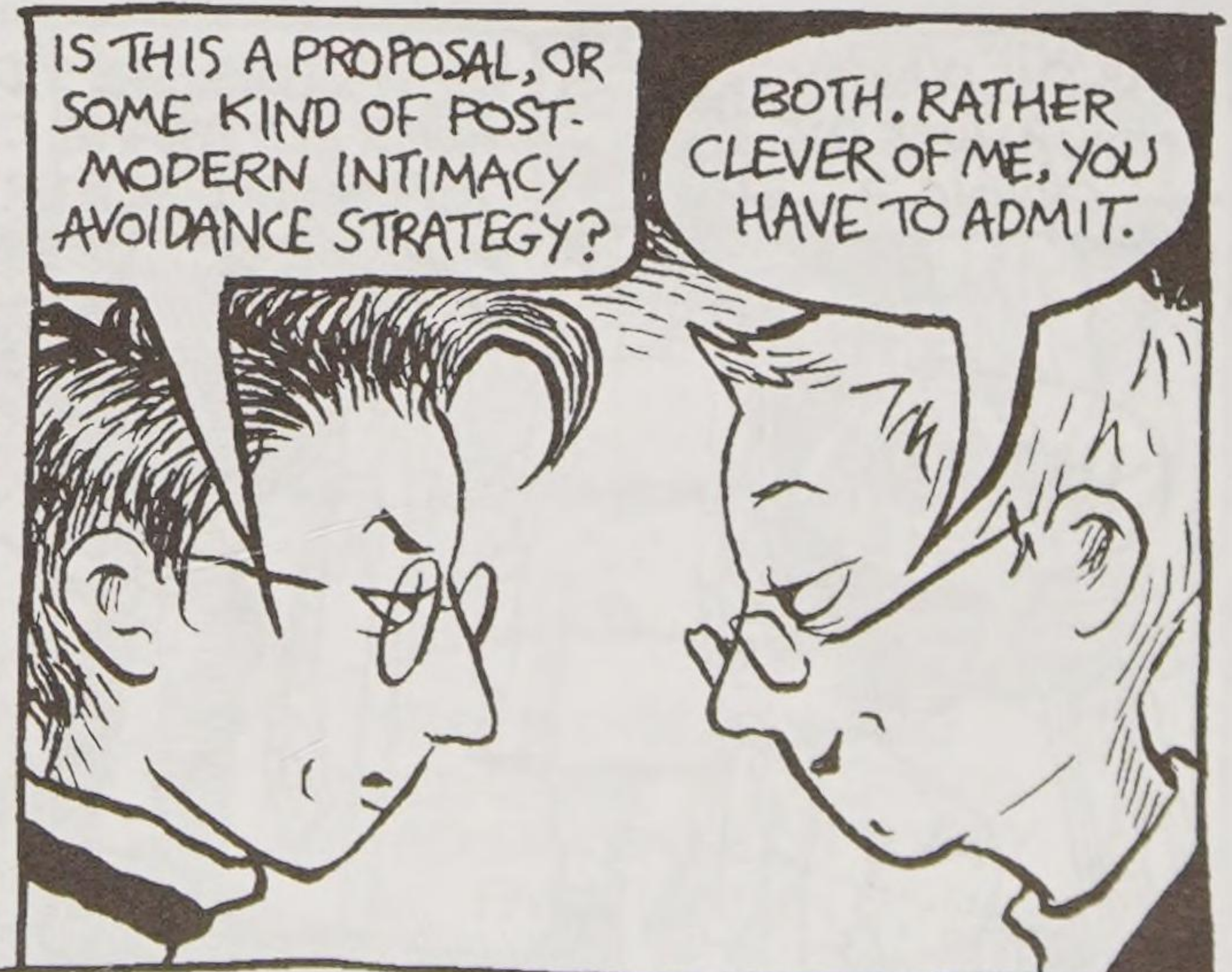
WHAT?

WE'LL GO TO BOSTON OR FRISCO OR TORONTO OR... OR **BELGIUM**, AND GET MARRIED.



IS THIS A PROPOSAL, OR SOME KIND OF POST-MODERN INTIMACY AVOIDANCE STRATEGY?

BOTH. RATHER CLEVER OF ME, YOU HAVE TO ADMIT.



milk man

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3/10

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I DON'T THINK I CAN LEAVE FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER HOUR.

WELL, SHE POLISHED OFF THE LAST BOTTLE. AND YOU KNOW SHE WANTS YOU AT BEDTIME.

WHOOOSH!
SLURP!

ACME PUMP CO.

A TIP O' THE NIP TO KIRSTEN BERGGREN

GIVE HER SOME RICE MILK.

SHE'S NOT GONNA FALL FOR MILK-RELATED PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

IS SHE HUNGRY NOW? WHY'S SHE CRYING?

NO, IT'S LOIS. SHE'S DOING RUMSFELD AT THE CLUB TONIGHT. I BETTER GO.

HAA-ANH...

LOIS!

GEE GOSH-DARN WILLKERS, LITTLE LADY! YOU'D THINK YOU'D NEVER SEEN A RUTHLESS NEOCON PSYCHOPATH HELL-BENT ON CONVULSING THE FRAGILE WORLD IN A FRENZY OF LAWLESS AGGRESSION BEFORE!

WAAAH!

STUART, THANKS SO MUCH FOR KEEPING JONAS. HE'LL PROBABLY JUST READ TILL BEDTIME.

SHE'LL PROBABLY JUST READ UNTIL BEDTIME, AND MY NAME'S **BRITNEY**.



I'M SORRY, SWEETIE. I'LL TRY TO REMEMBER TO CALL YOU "SHE," BUT NO **WAY** WILL I CALL YOU BRITNEY. WE NEED TO DISCUSS THE NAME CHANGE FURTHER.



WHY IS SHE NEGOTIATING WITH HIM?! HE NEEDS TO LEARN TO ADJUST.



RIGHT. I'LL SEND HIM TO GITMO IN THE MORNING.

AND YOU'RE NOT HELPING MATTERS WITH THIS DRAG KING BUSINESS.

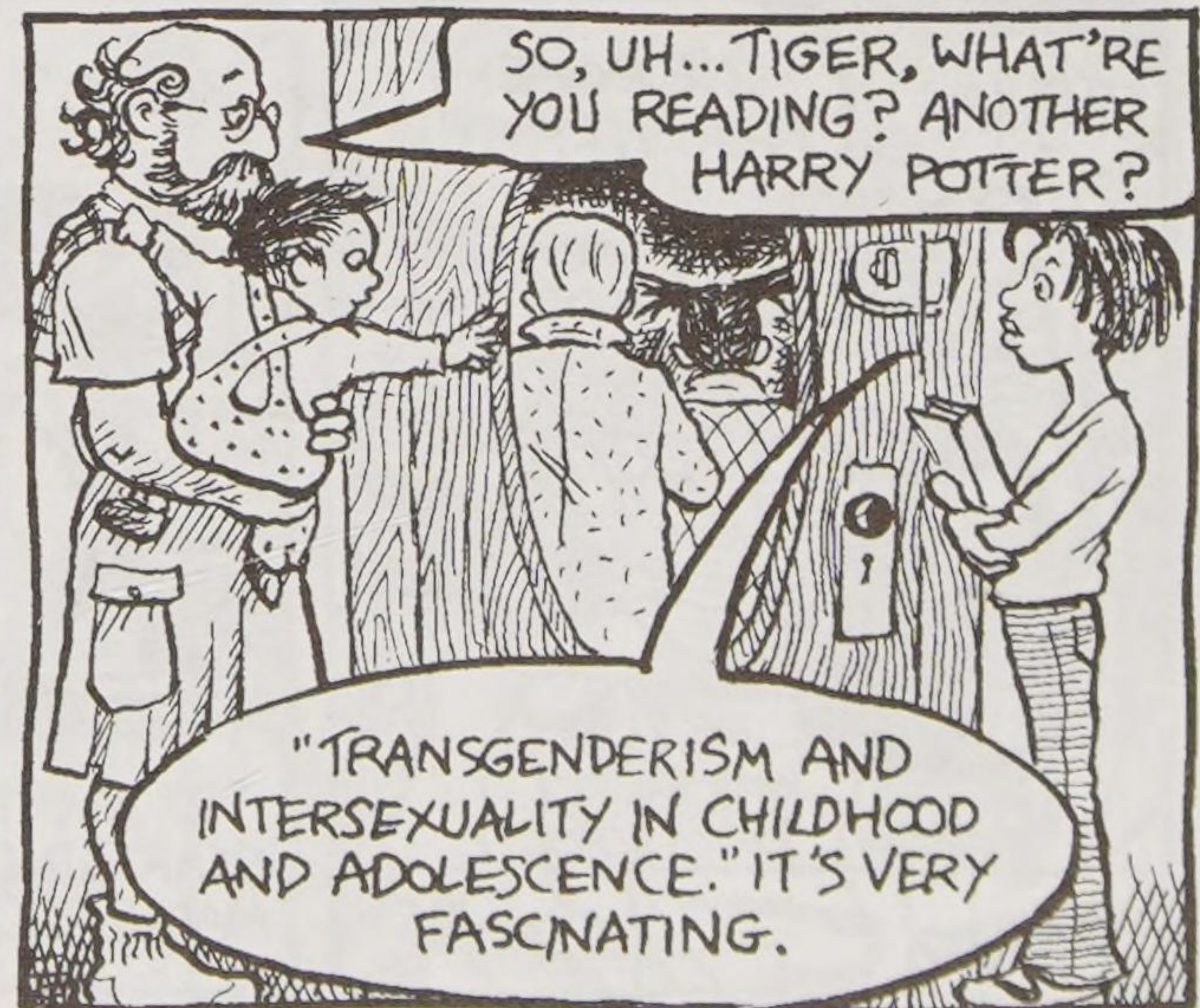


IF YOU WEREN'T WEARING A SKIRT, SIR, I'D TAKE EXCEPTION TO THAT REMARK.



SO, UH... TIGER, WHAT'RE YOU READING? ANOTHER HARRY POTTER?

"TRANSGENDERISM AND INTERSEXUALITY IN CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE." IT'S VERY FASCINATING.



get me to
the clerk
on time

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3/24

436

IN THE
FIRST
BLUSH
OF HER
ROMANCE
WITH SAMIA,
GINGER HAS
BECOME A
BIT LAX
IN THE
CLASSROOM
DISCIPLINE
DEPART-
MENT.

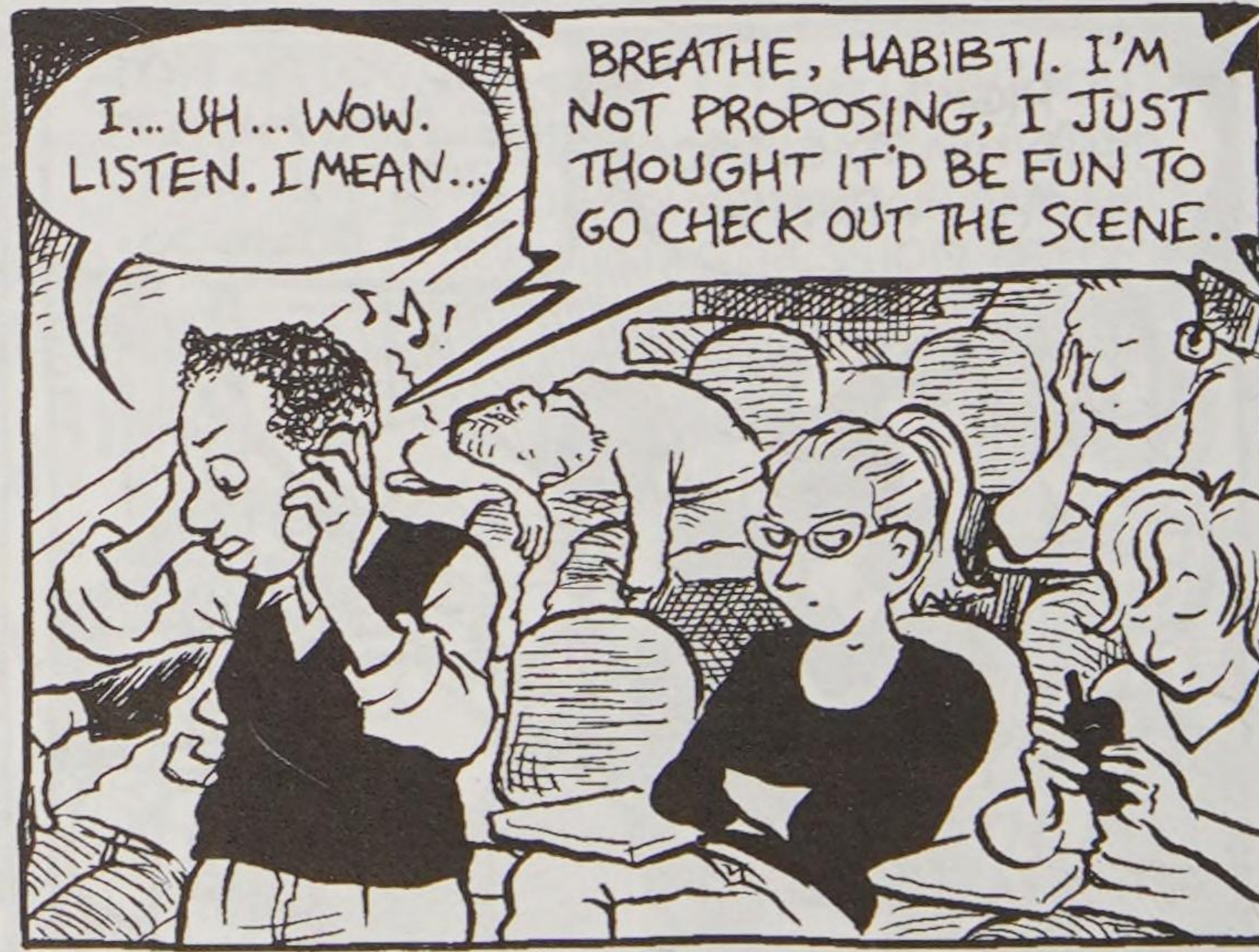
SO, UH... ANY THOUGHTS
ABOUT THE WAY RUMI
ADDRESSES THE DIVINE
IN SENSUAL TERMS?

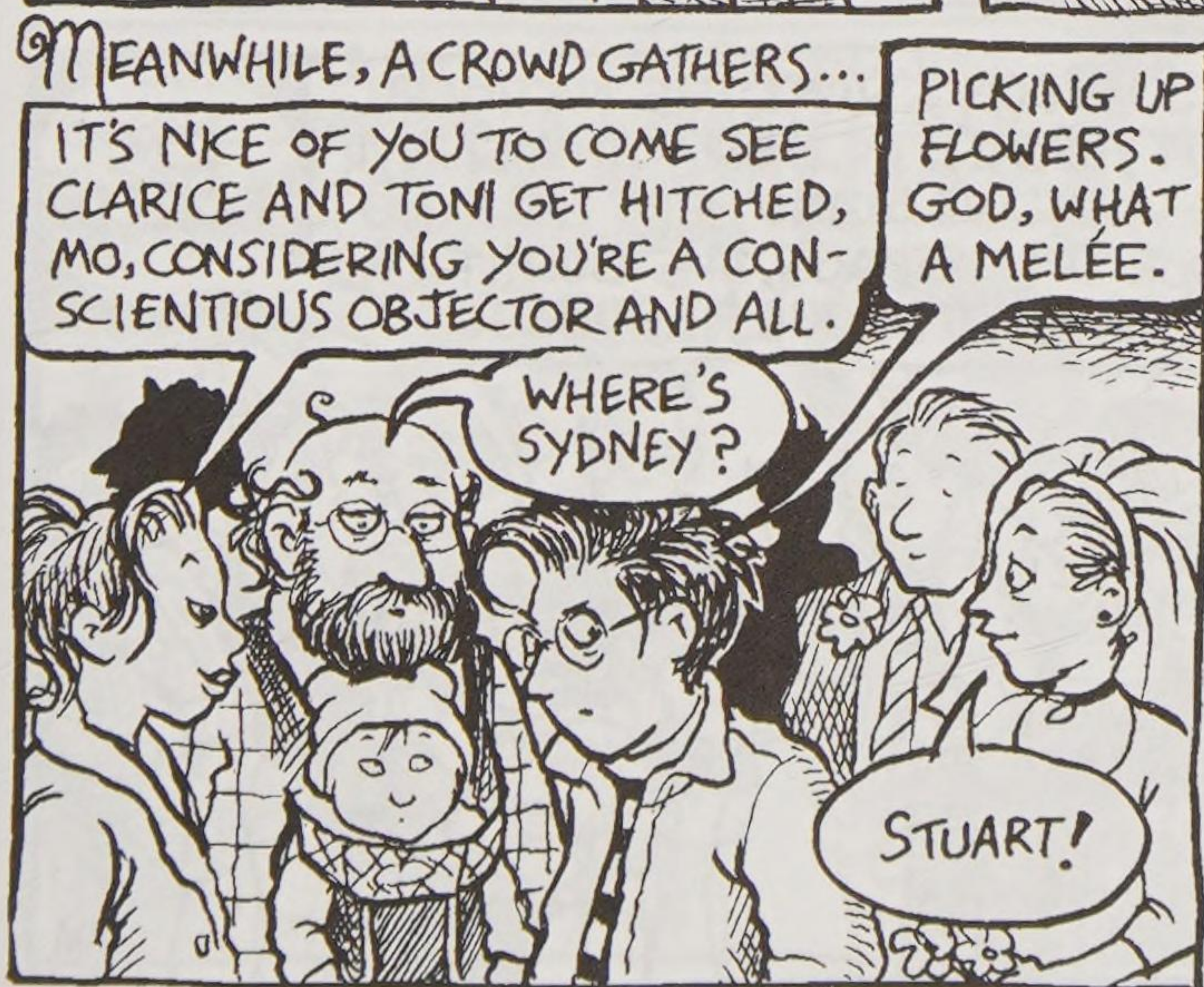
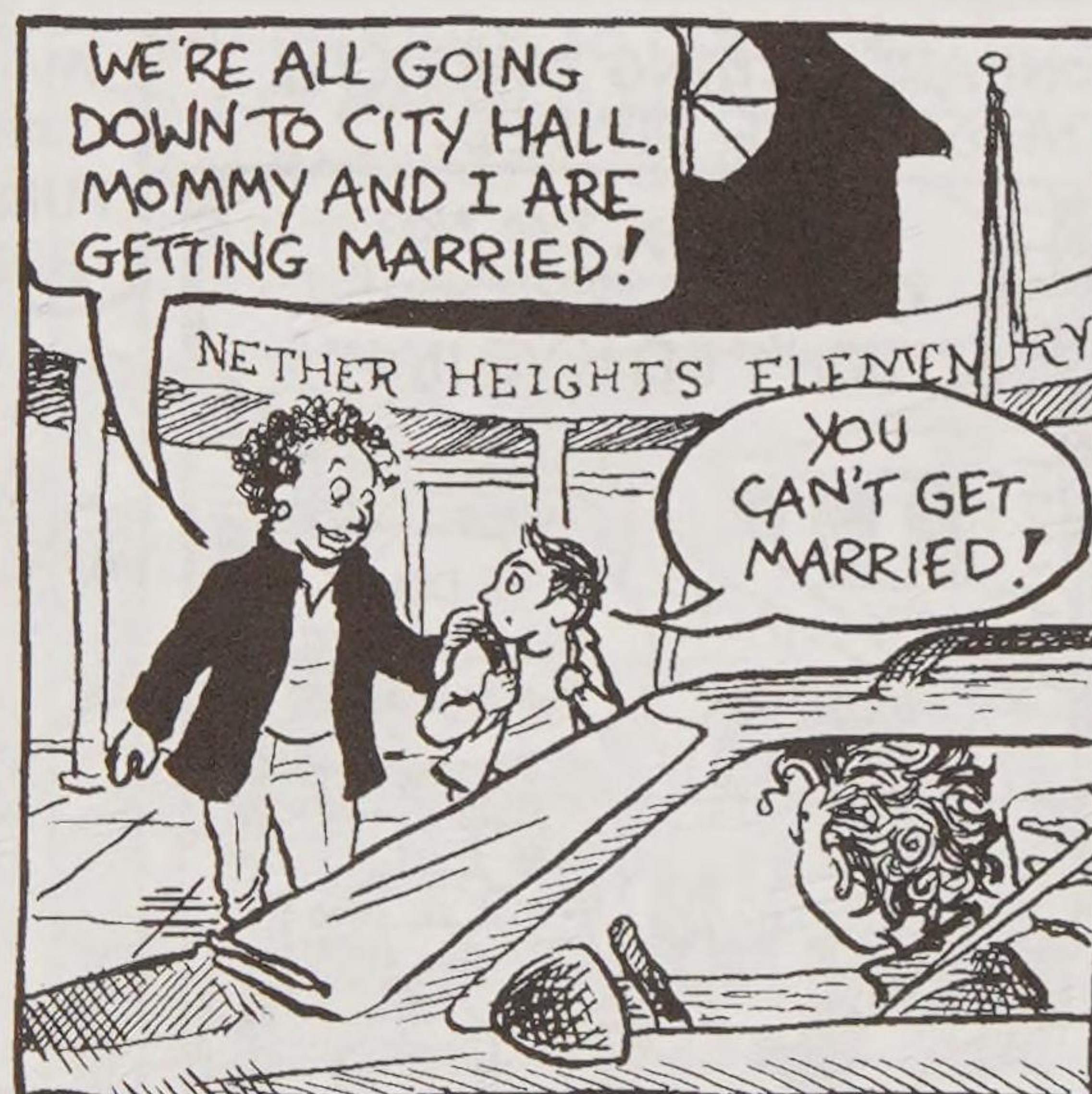
GIMME\$11 TO
WIN \$10 ON UTAH
MINUS THE SIX.

WELL, I FOUND IT OFFENSIVE. I THINK
MEL GIBSON CONVEYS SURRENDER TO
THE DIVINE **MUCH** MORE TASTEFULLY IN
"THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST."

DID U2 DO IT
LST NITE?

DEGT GF! STIL
GOT MY V CRD!

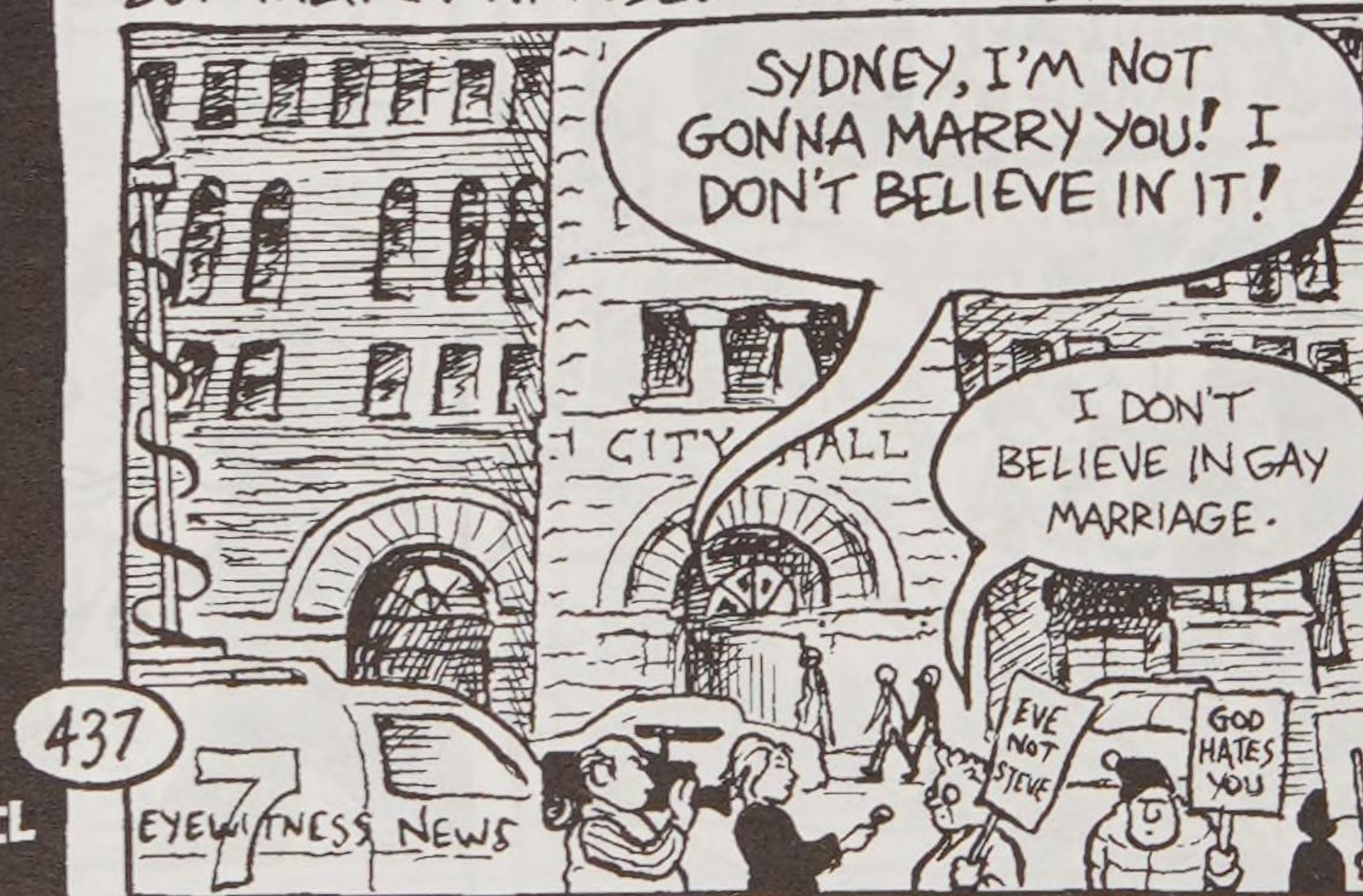




betrothal or betrayal?

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CLARICE AND TONI ARE GETTING MARRIED,
BUT THEIR WITNESSES ARE DIVIDED.



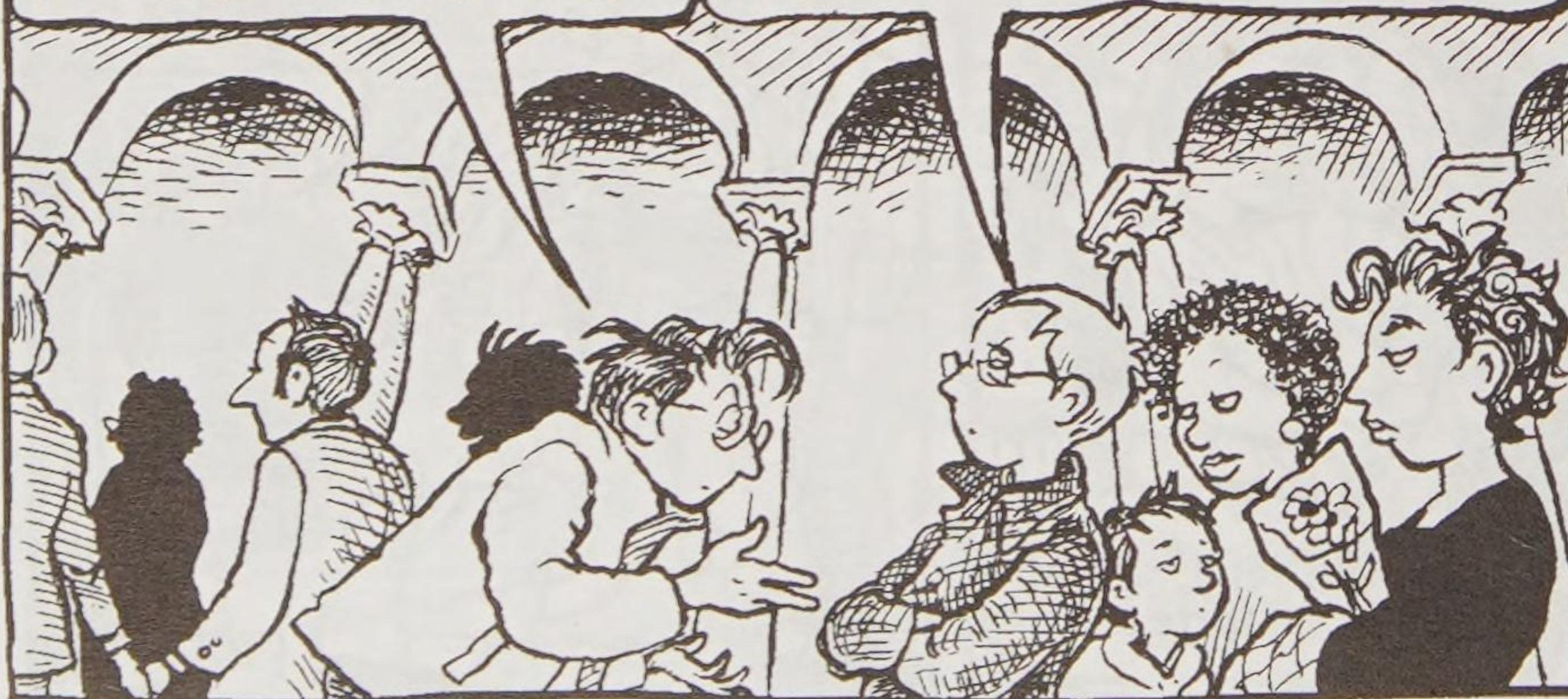
MO, THIS IS ABOUT
EQUAL PROTECTION,
PURE AND SIMPLE. D'YOU
BELIEVE IN **THAT**?

WHAT'S THE
BIG DEAL?
MARRY YOUR
GIRLFRIEND.



I WON'T BE COMPLICIT
WITH THE ENSHRINEMENT
OF **COUPLEDOM** AS A
PRIVILEGED CIVIC STATUS.

RIGHT. YOU'VE SO ENSHRINED
YOUR OWN **OPPRESSION** AS A
PRIVILEGED CIVIC STATUS. EQUAL-
ITY WOULD BE A **DOWNGRADE**.



LOOK, I JUST DON'T WANT THE NATIONAL
SECURITY STATE IN **BED** WITH ME! AND
BESIDES, WHILE WE STAND HERE FRETTING
ABOUT OUR TROUSSEAUS, THE BUSHITES
ARE **LIQUIDATING** THE **REPUBLIC**!

I'M
BORED.

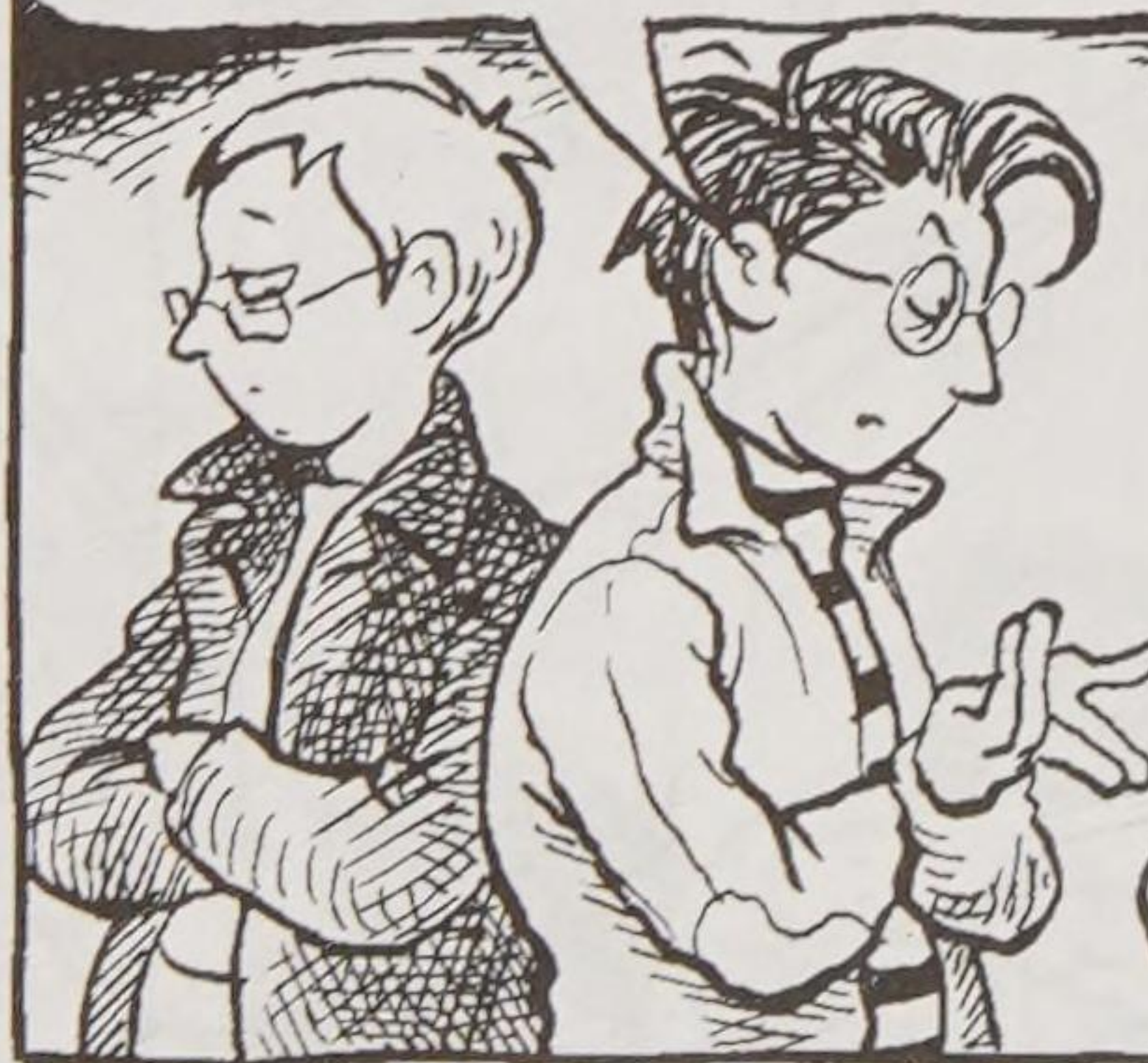


RAF, LOOK AT ALL THESE PEOPLE. WOULDN'T IT BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN FOLKS UP FOR THE KERRY CAMPAIGN?

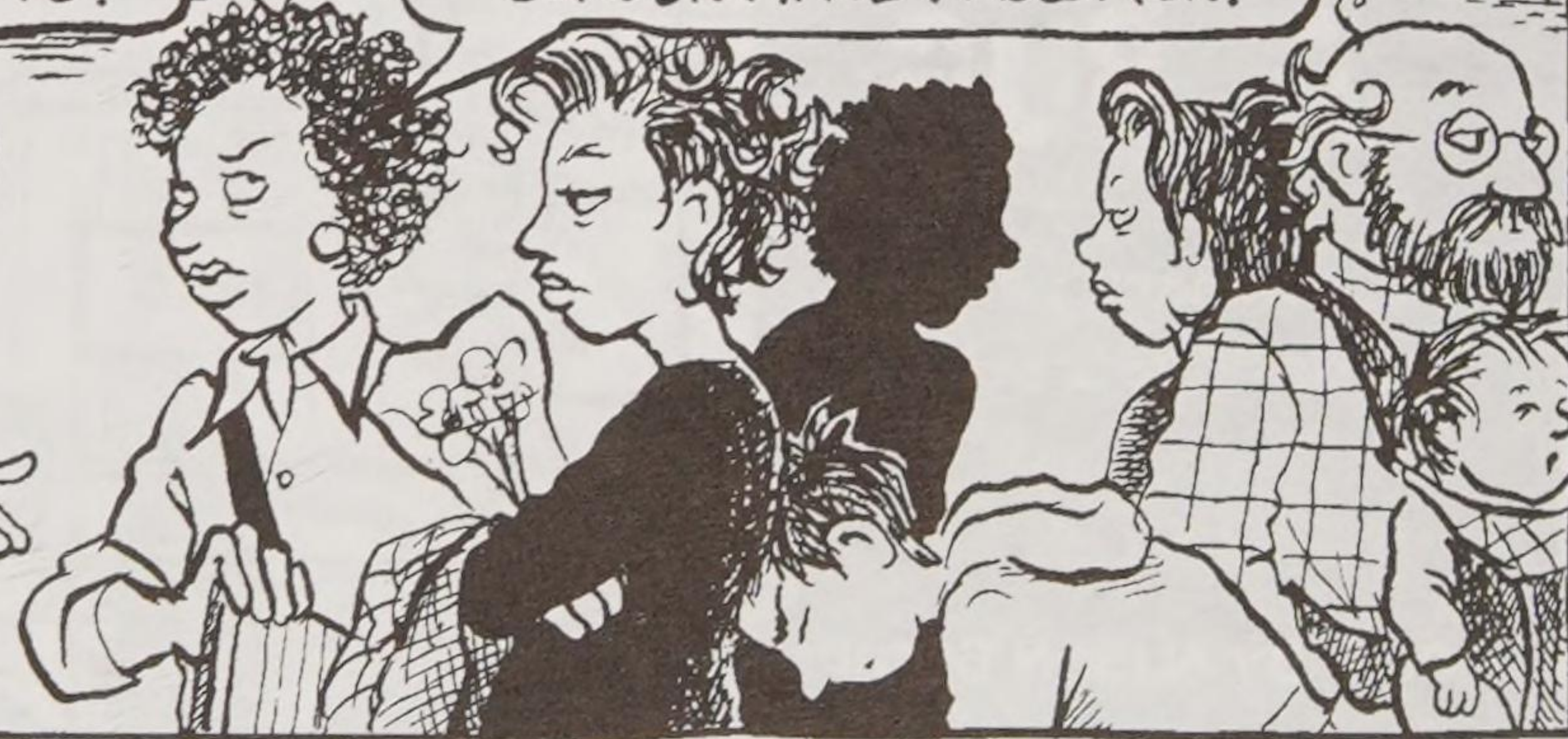
KERRY'S BORING.



AND IF YOU'RE SO GUNG-HO TO GET MARRIED, WHY AREN'T YOU BACKING KUCINICH OR SHARPTON, WHO ACTUALLY SUPPORT YOUR **RIGHT** TO?



BECAUSE I LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD, NOT IN MY **NAVEL**. ADULTS MAKE COMPROMISES. THAT'S HOW PROGRESS HAPPENS. THAT'S WHY SUPPORT FOR CIVIL UNIONS HAS BECOME THE CONSERVATIVE FALLBACK!



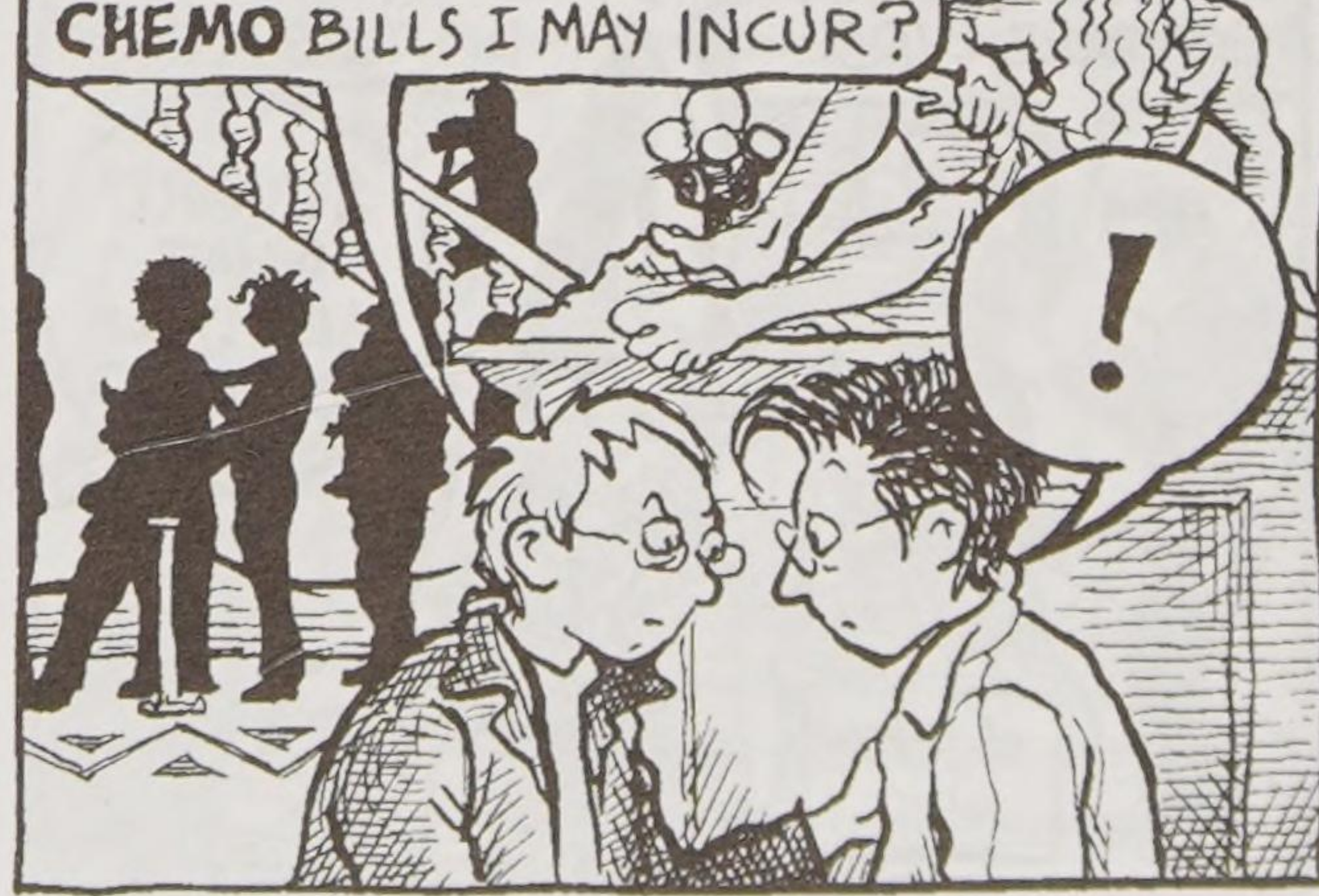
C'MON. LET'S DO IT BEFORE SOMEONE SAYS WE CAN'T.

SYDNEY, YOU JUST WANNA REGISTER AT POTTERY BARN.

Y'KNOW, THIS IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR ME. COULD YOU GO SQUABBLE ELSEWHERE?



WHAT DO YOU WANT? A **PRE-NUP** SAYING YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY FUTURE **CHEMO** BILLS I MAY INCUR?



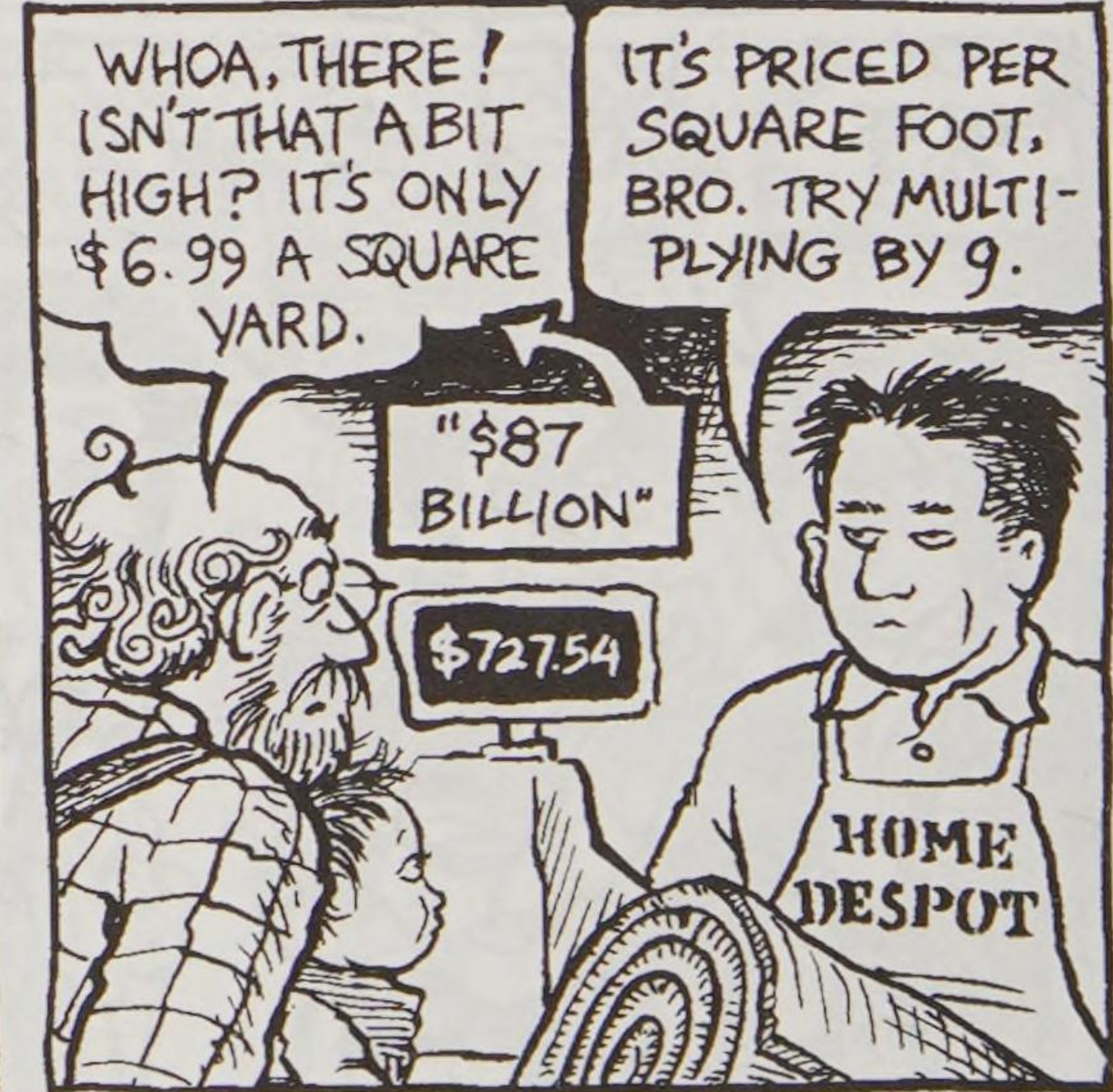
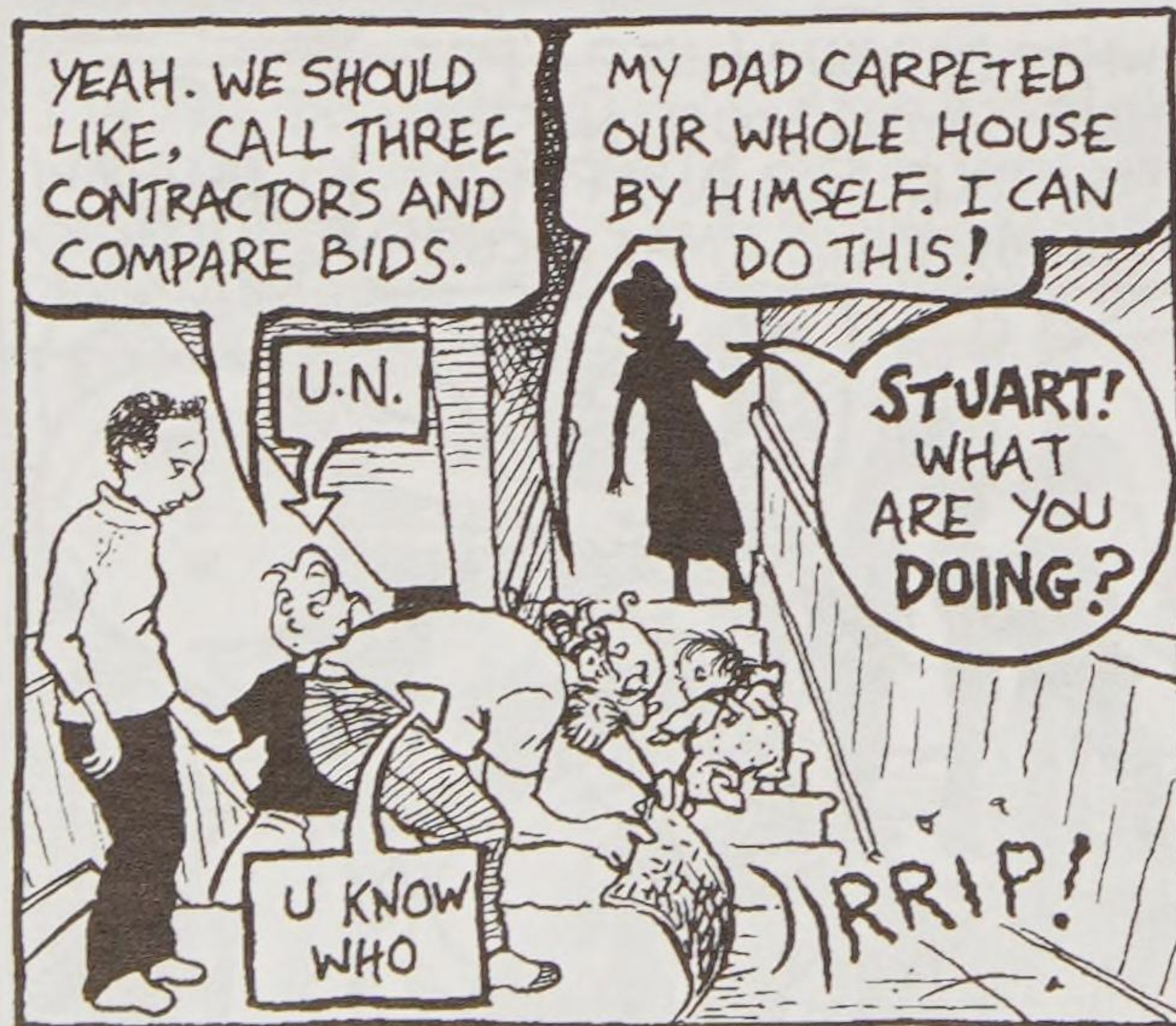
SNUG AS A BUG

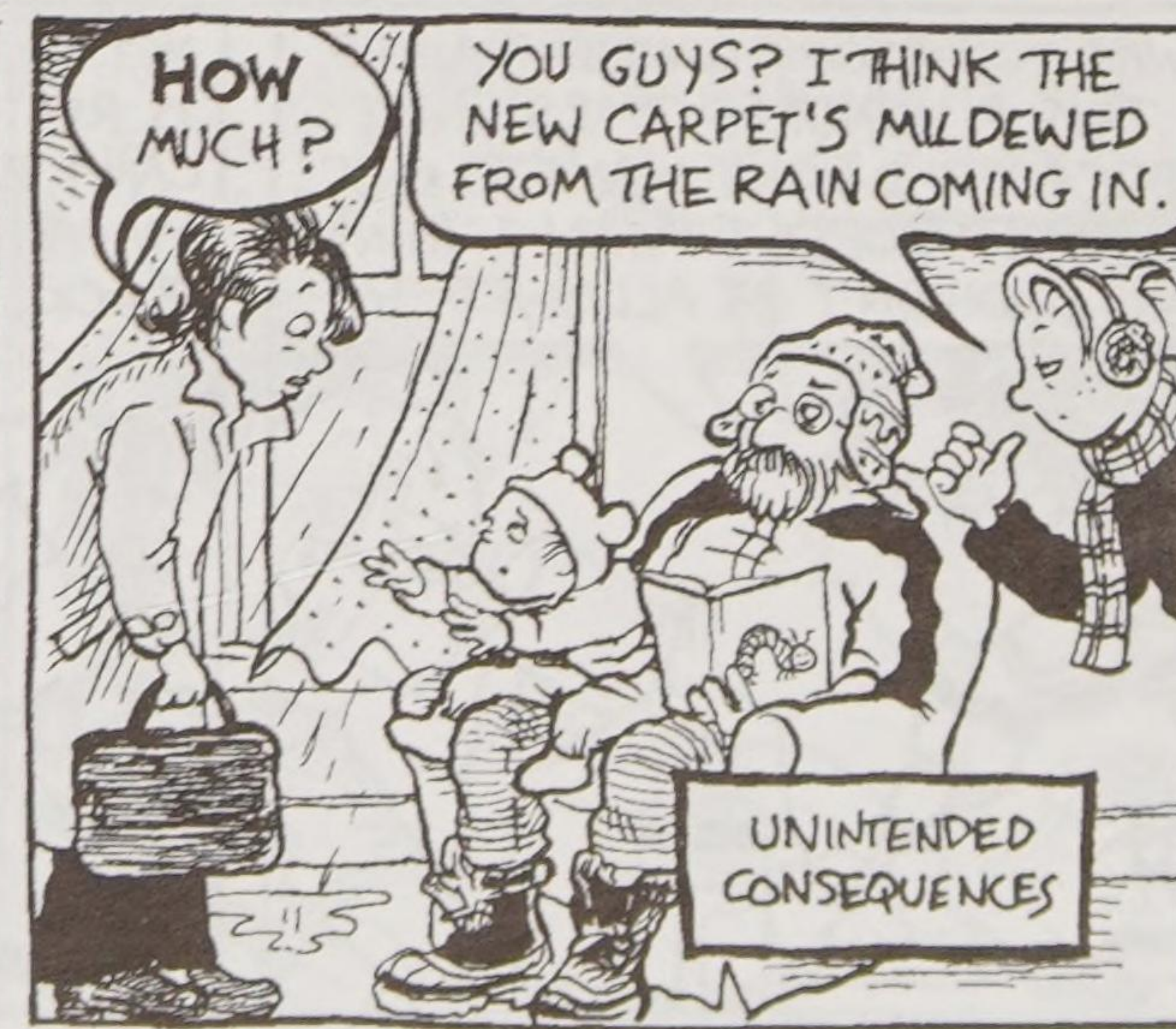
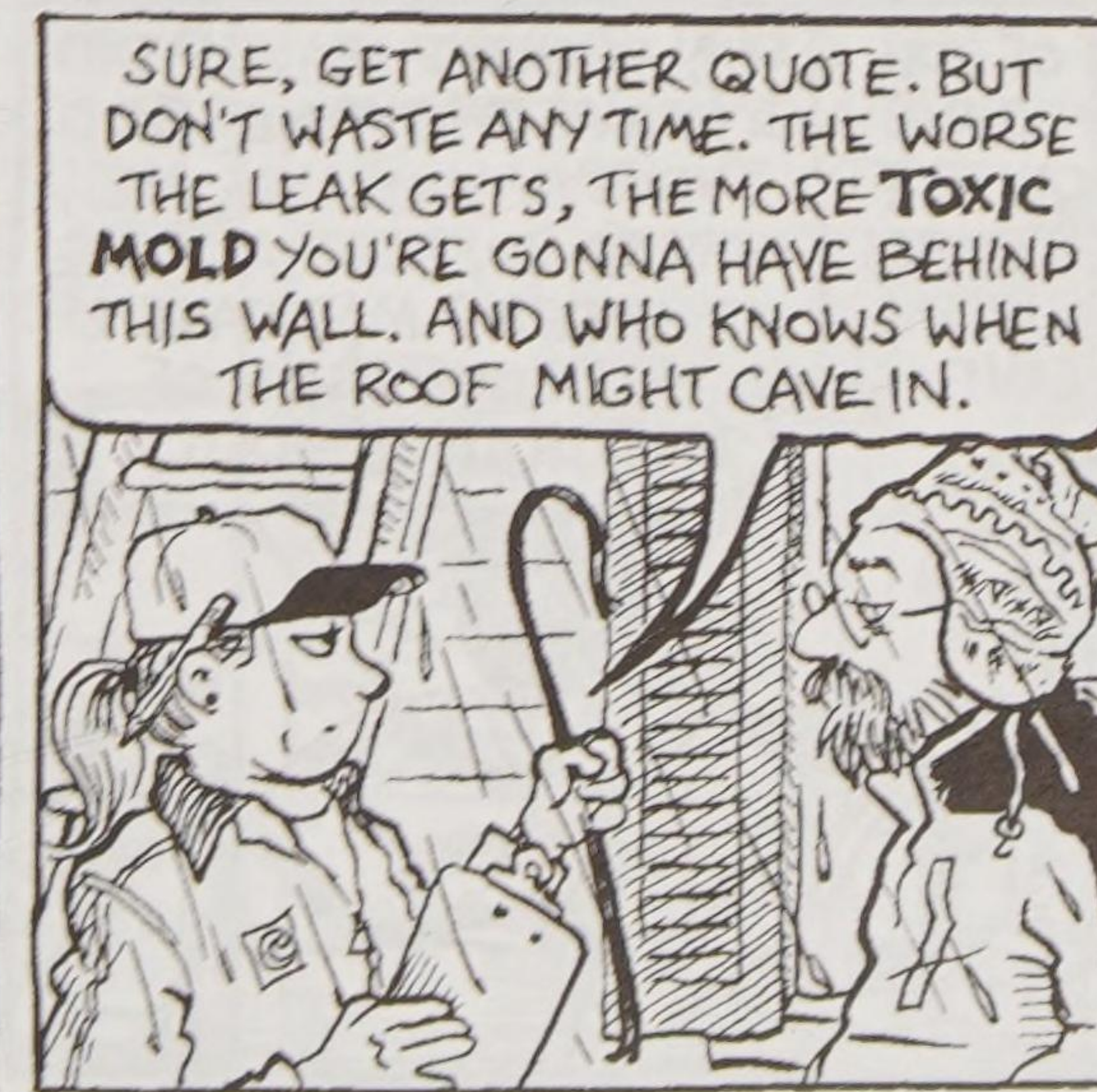
a cautionary parable for do-it-yourselfers

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4/21

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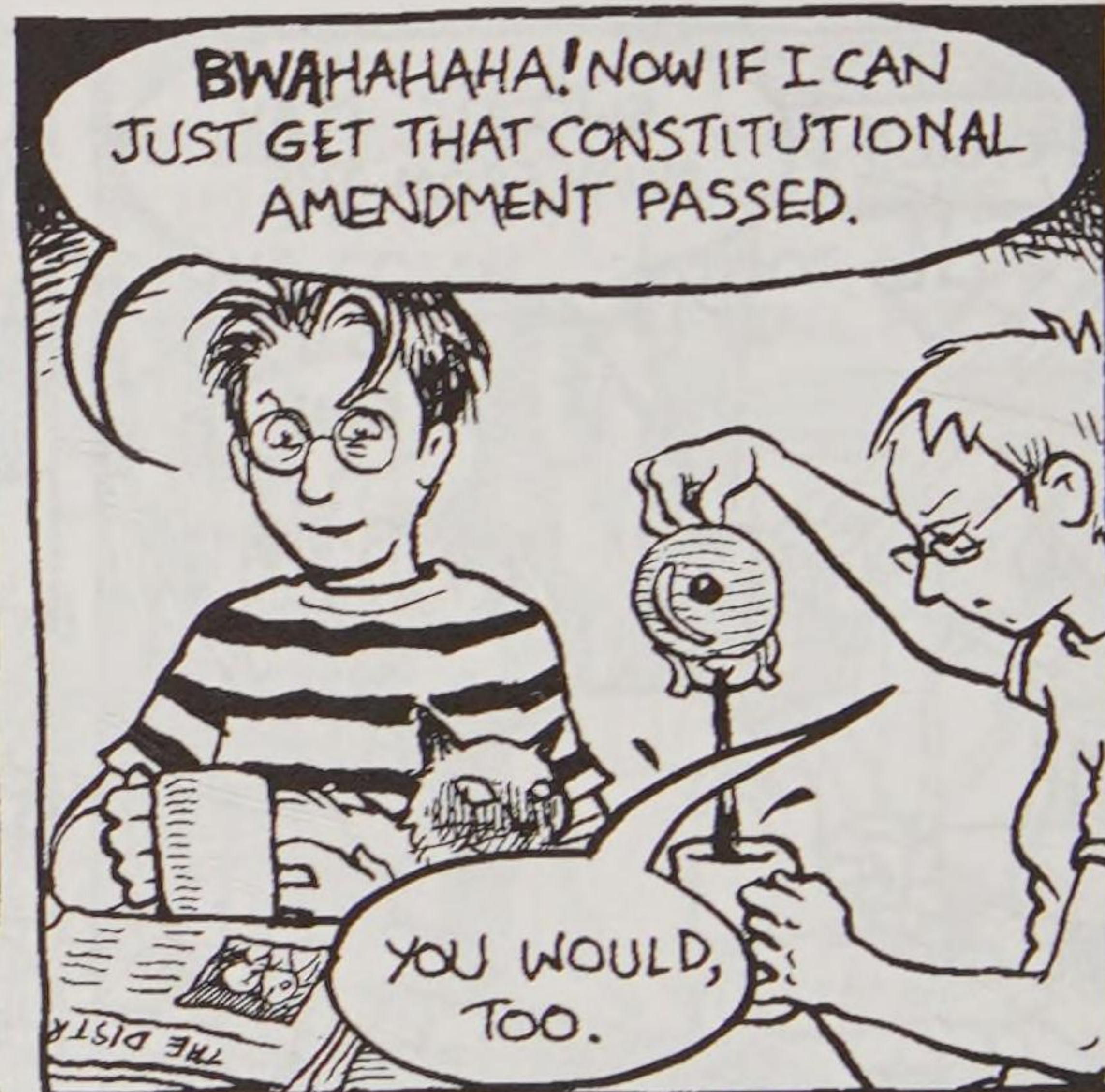
LICENTIOUS BEHAVIOR

5/5

FOR THE NONCE, NO NUPTIAL NOOSE FOR OUR NATTERING NABOBS OF NETTLE-SOMENESS.

439

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WILL YOU STOP? I'VE EXPLAINED THIS A HUNDRED TIMES. JUST BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED DOESN'T MEAN I THINK WE SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO.



YET PART OF YOU IS RELIEVED WE CAN'T, BECAUSE IF MY CANCER COMES BACK, YOU CAN JUST LEAVE.

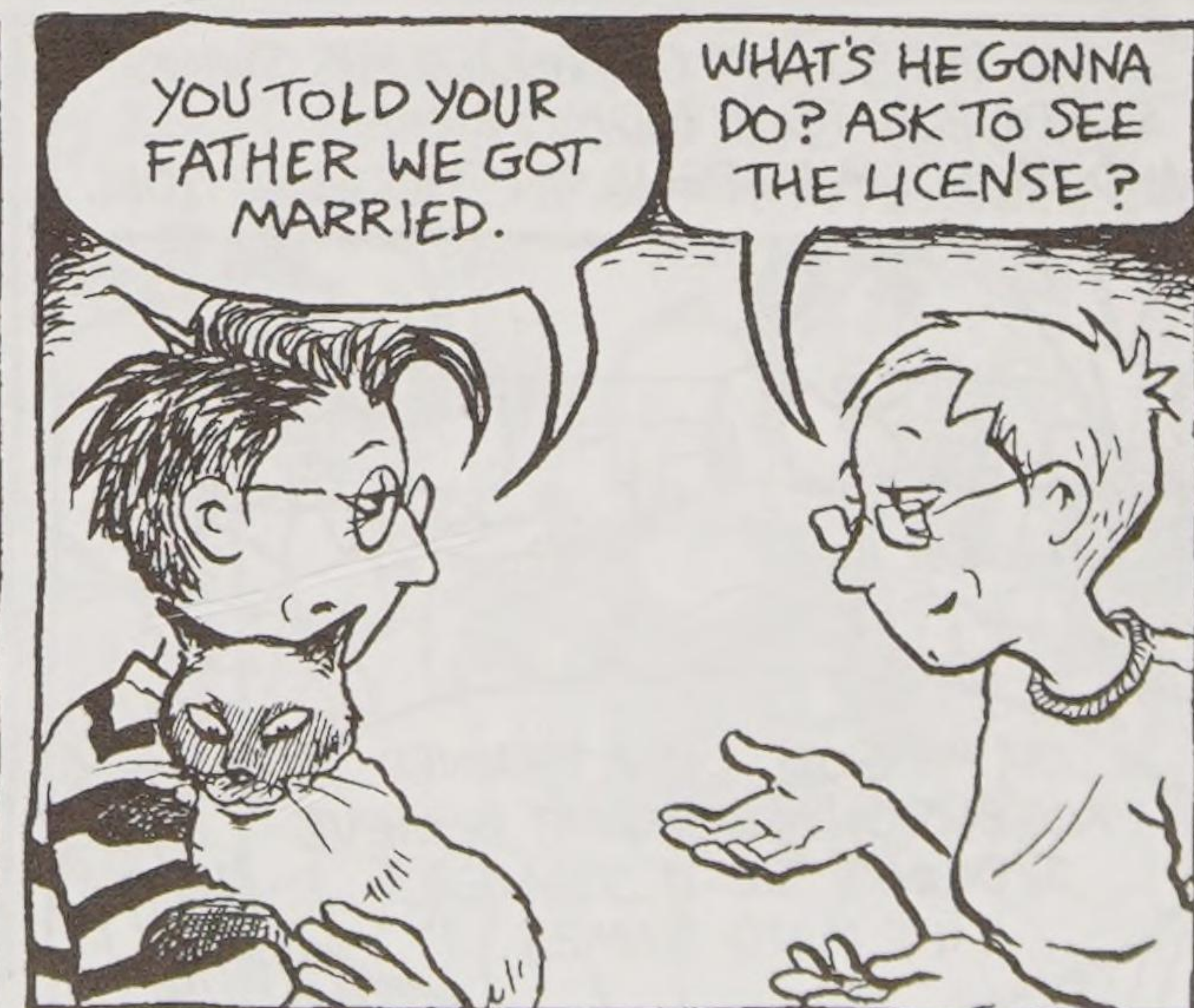


WHY WOULD I LEAVE? DID I LEAVE THIS TIME? GOD, SYDNEY. YOU HAVE ME, WHY DO YOU NEED A PIECE OF PAPER? MARRIAGE IS NOT SOME KIND OF INSURANCE POLICY.

THAT'S FOR DARN SURE.

OH, YEAH! THAT'S IT... PUSH A LITTLE HARDER.





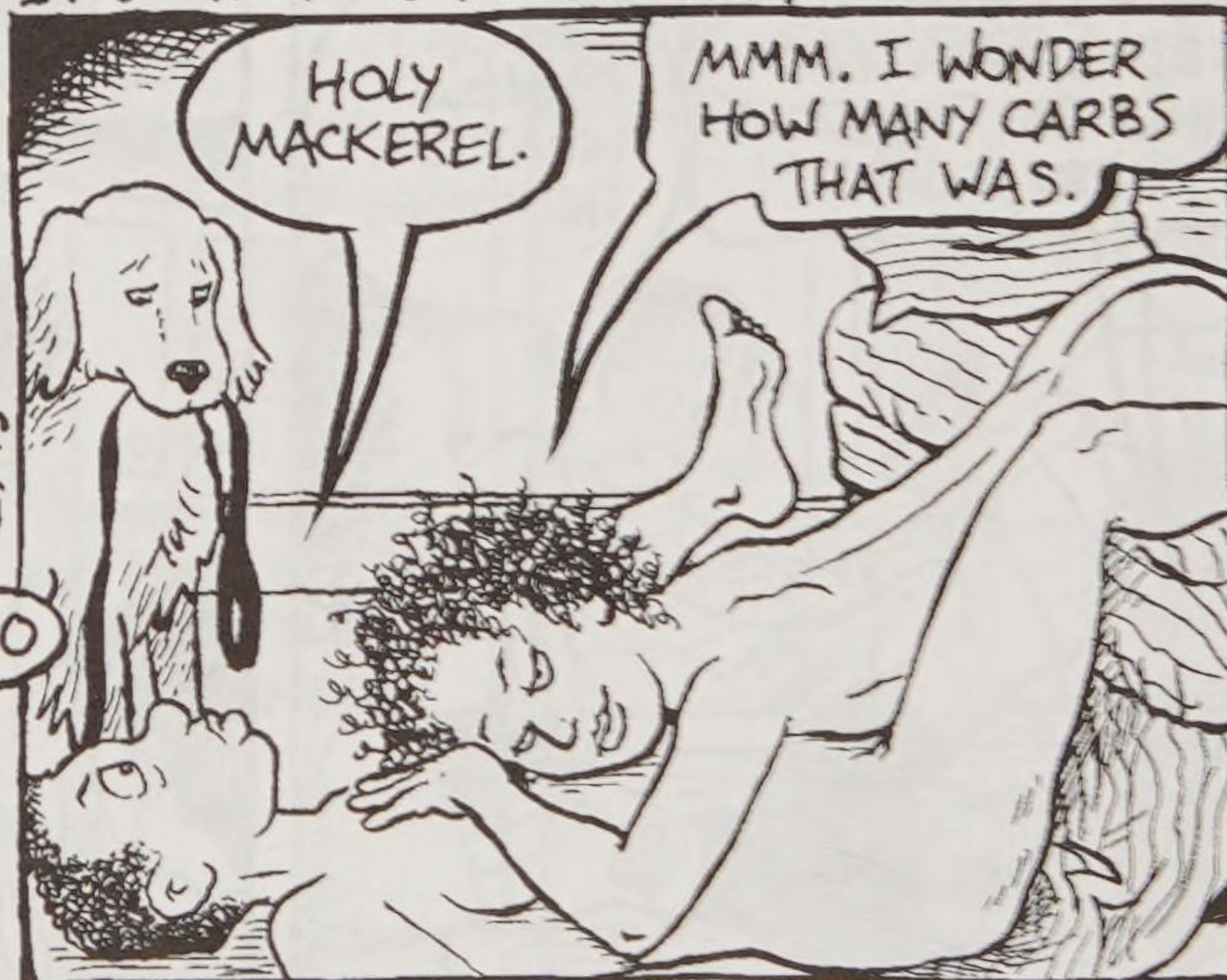
too
much
information

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5/19

440

IT'S MORNING IN AMERICA.



BUT ONLY LITERALLY.

THIS IS AIR AMERICA RADIO NEWS. DEFENSE SECRETARY RUMSFELD HAS APOLOGIZED FOR THE ABU GHRAIB PRISON SCANDAL, DECLARING HIS REGRET THAT THE PHOTOS OF U.S. SOLDIERS "ABUSING" IRAQI. DETAINEES EVER BECAME PUBLIC.

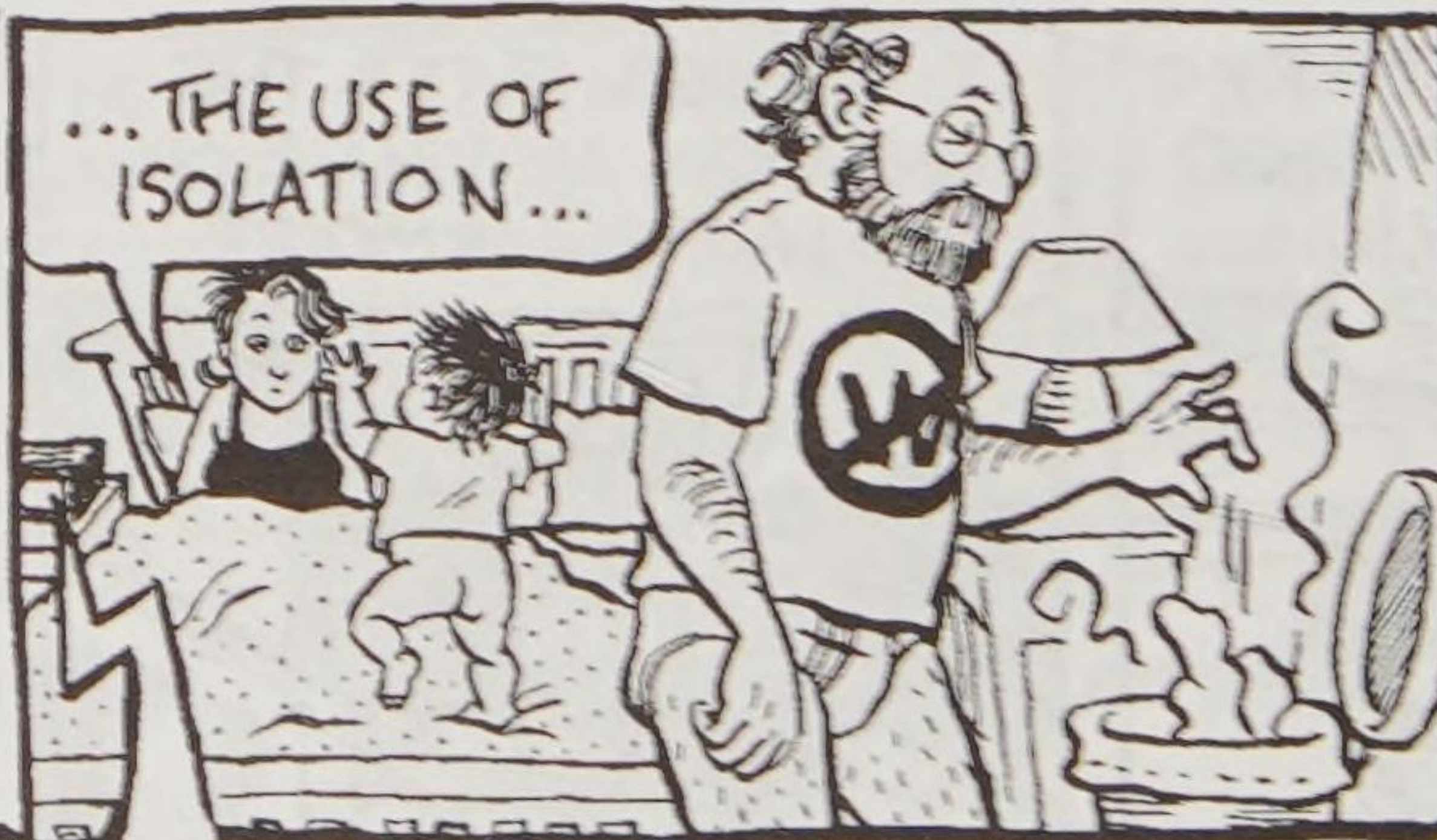


...THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED HIS SWING STATE BUS TOUR TODAY, SAYING "PEACE AND FREEDOM DEPEND ON THIS ELECTION."



OH MY GOD. I'M A TRAINED PROFESSIONAL. I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T SEE IT SOONER! THE MIND GAMES...

...THE USE OF ISOLATION...



...AS THE COALITION CRUMBLES IN IRAQ AND BUSH'S SUPPORT FOR ARIEL SHARON IGNITES WIDESPREAD CRITICISM, THE U.S. FINDS ITSELF ALIENATED FROM NEARLY THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

...BUSH ADVISER KAREN HUGHES HAS LIKENED THE PRO-CHOICE PARTICIPANTS IN THE BIGGEST MARCH ON WASHINGTON EVER TO TERRORISTS...



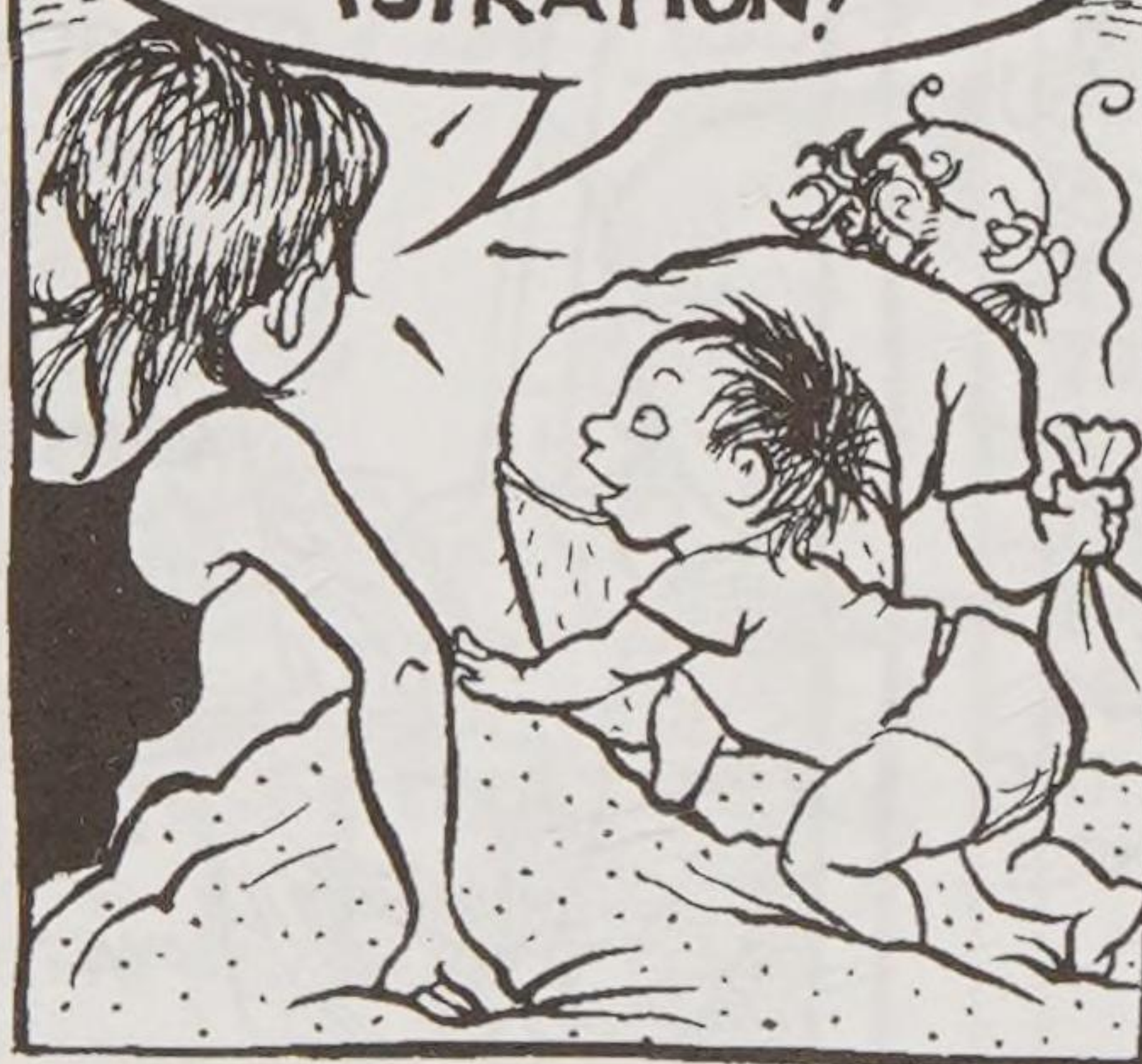
THE ACCUSATIONS ABOUT BEING UNFAITHFUL...

A NEW BILL PROPOSES TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF THE PATRIOT ACT. AND RECENT HIRING GAINS IN THE SHITWORK SECTOR HAVE SHRUNK THE NET JOB LOSS UNDER BUSH TO 1.5 MILLION!



THE OBSESSIVE KEEPING TRACK... PREVENTING THE OTHER PERSON FROM GETTING A JOB...

STUART, WE'RE IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION!



Y'KNOW, JUST BECAUSE WE CAN LISTEN TO PROGRESSIVE TALK RADIO, 24/7 DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO.



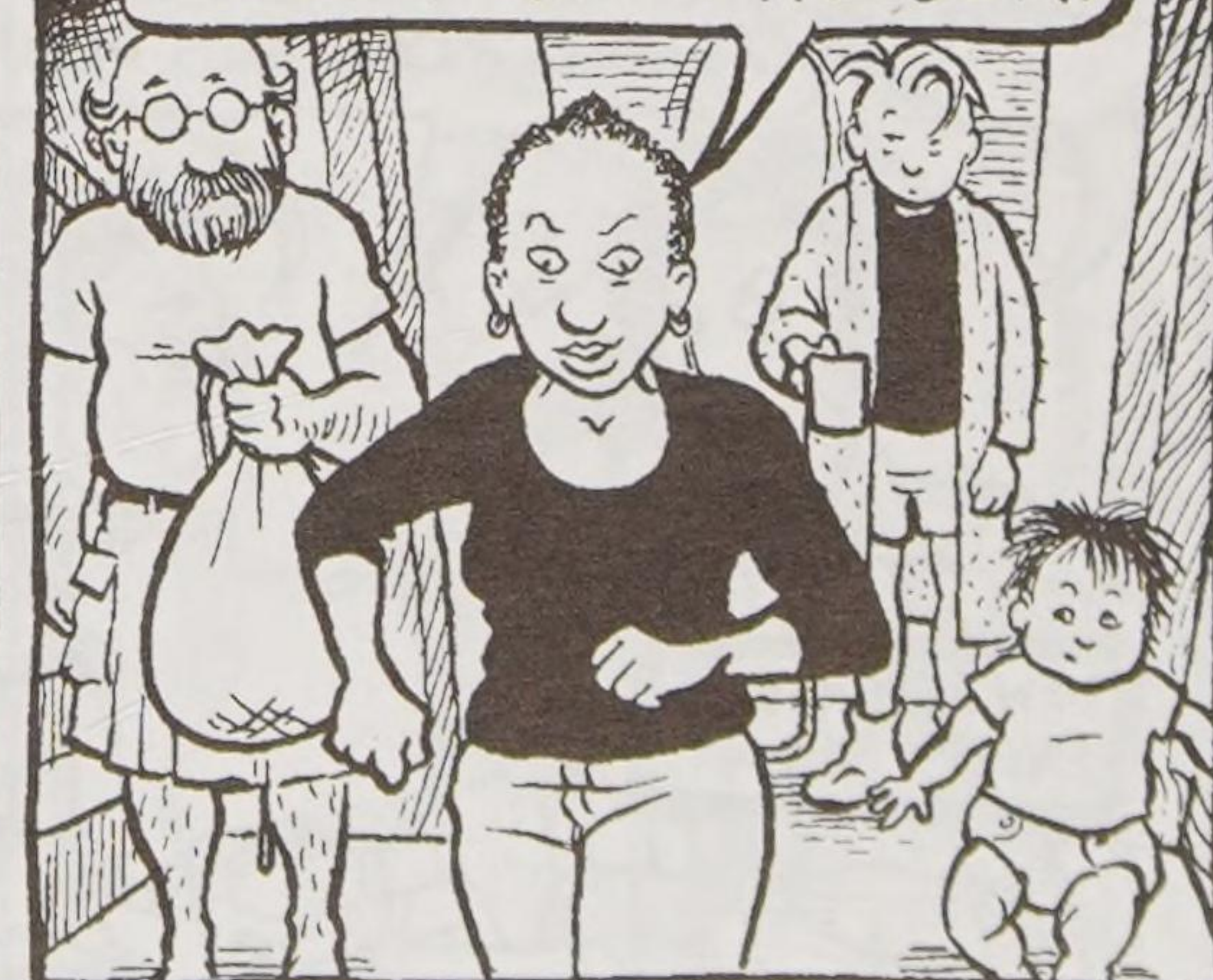
CLIK!..AND BARRING A HORRIFIC ACT OF TERRORISM, THE MARKET WILL KEEP DOING WELL. THIS IS NPR.



GOOD MORNING, FAIR HOUSEMATES! SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN HOME MUCH LATELY. I'VE BEEN, UH, SEEING A WOMAN ABOUT A DOG.



I HOPE WE HAVE PLENTY OF JUICE. ALL THAT FLUID BONDING REALLY TAKES IT OUT OF A PERSON.



FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES

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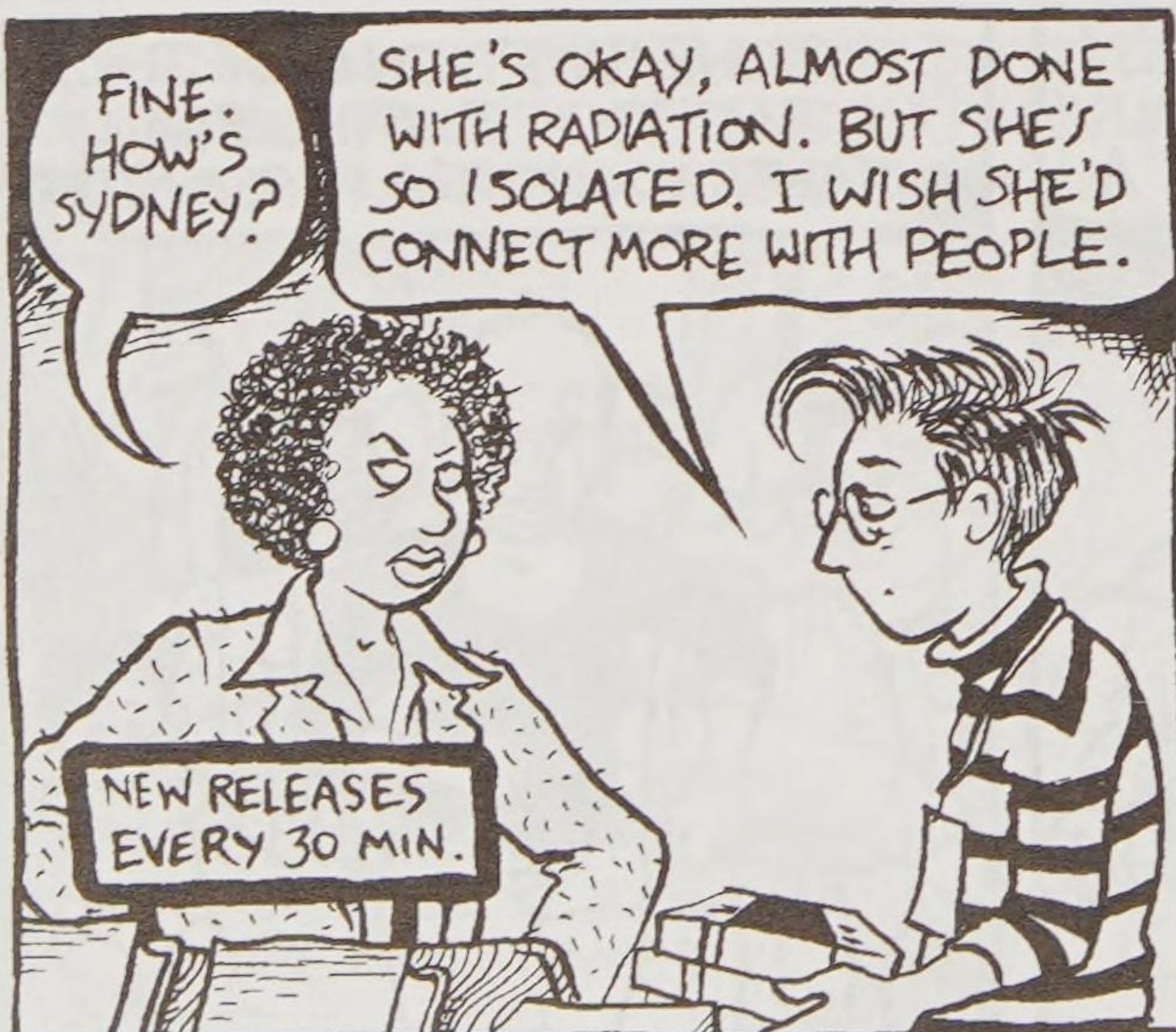
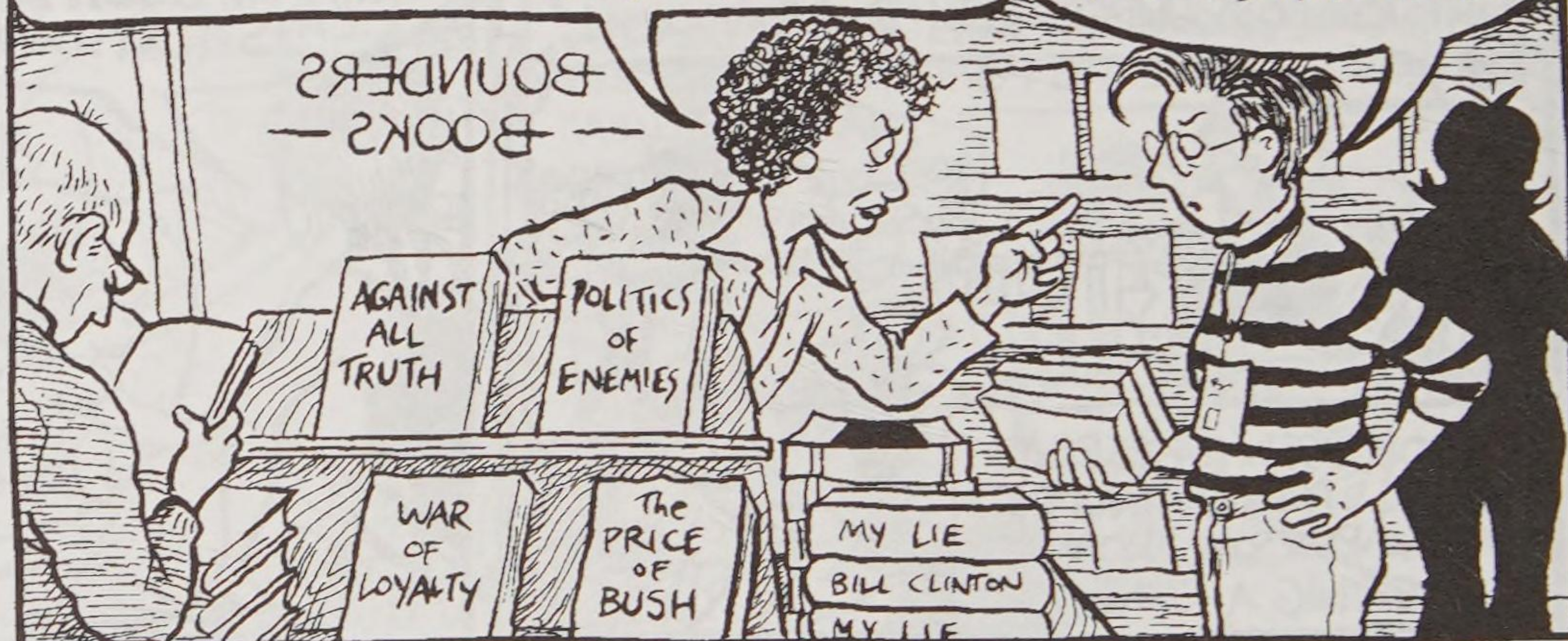
SEEKING
RESPIRE
FROM A
CACOPHONOUS
POLITICAL
CLIMATE,
CLARICE
ENTERS THAT
PEACEFUL
TEMPLE TO
TIMELESS
TRUTH, THE
BOOKSTORE.

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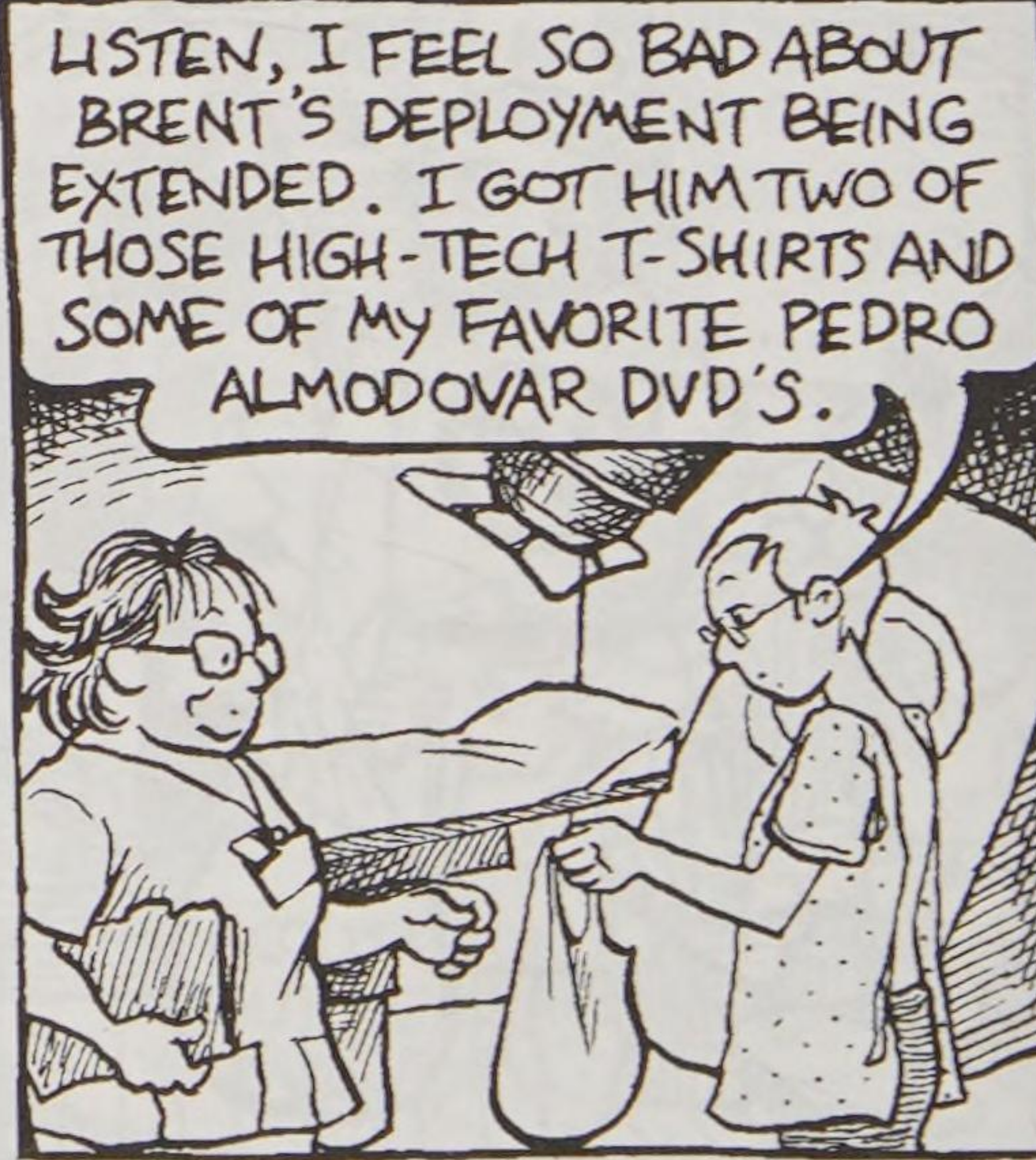
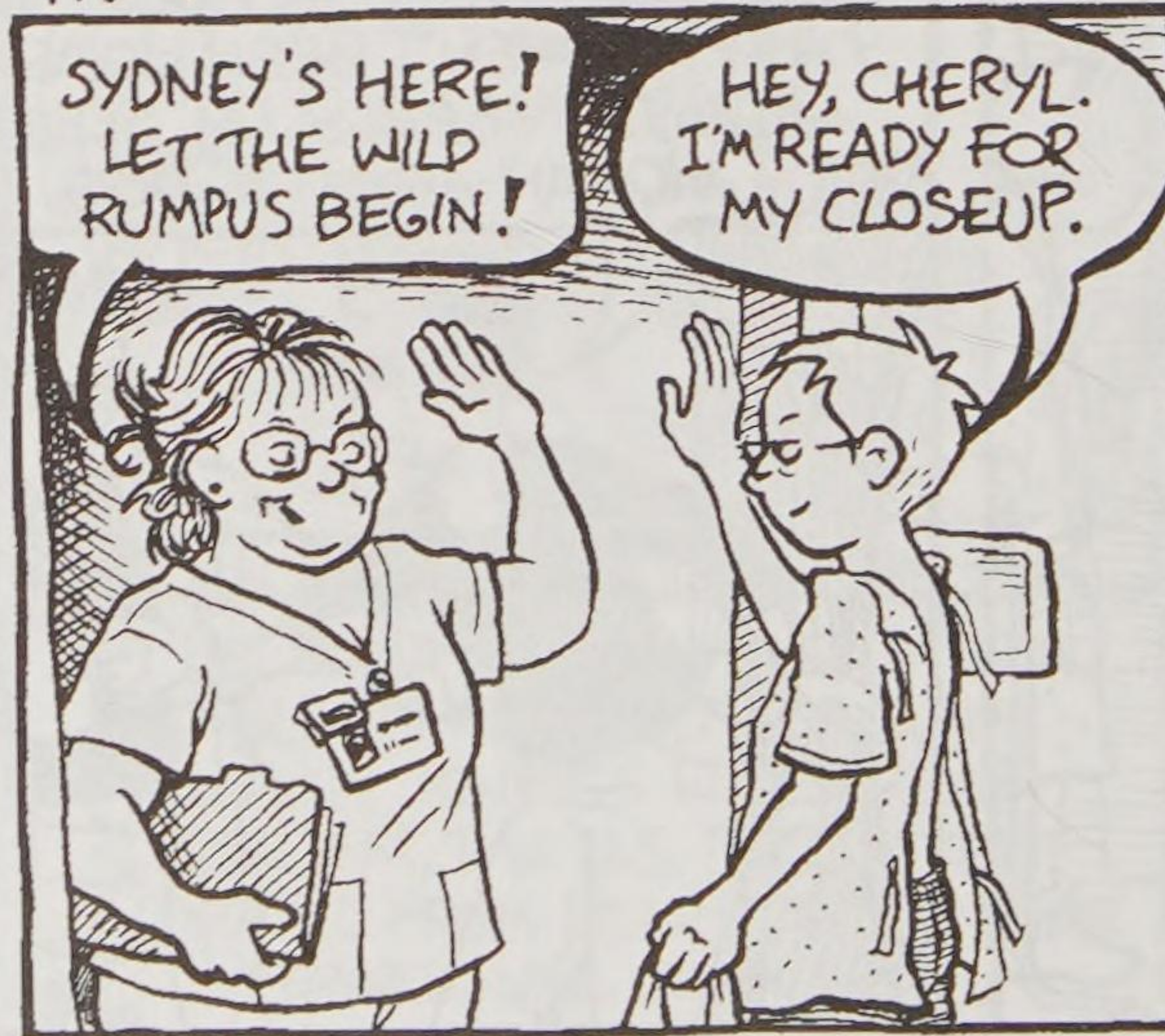
6/2

MO, #%@ NADER! DON'T YOU GET IT?
JOHN KERRY IS THE ONLY THING STANDING
BETWEEN US AND THE #%&ING END TIME!

MAYBE WE JUST
SHOULDN'T DISCUSS
POLITICS ANYMORE.



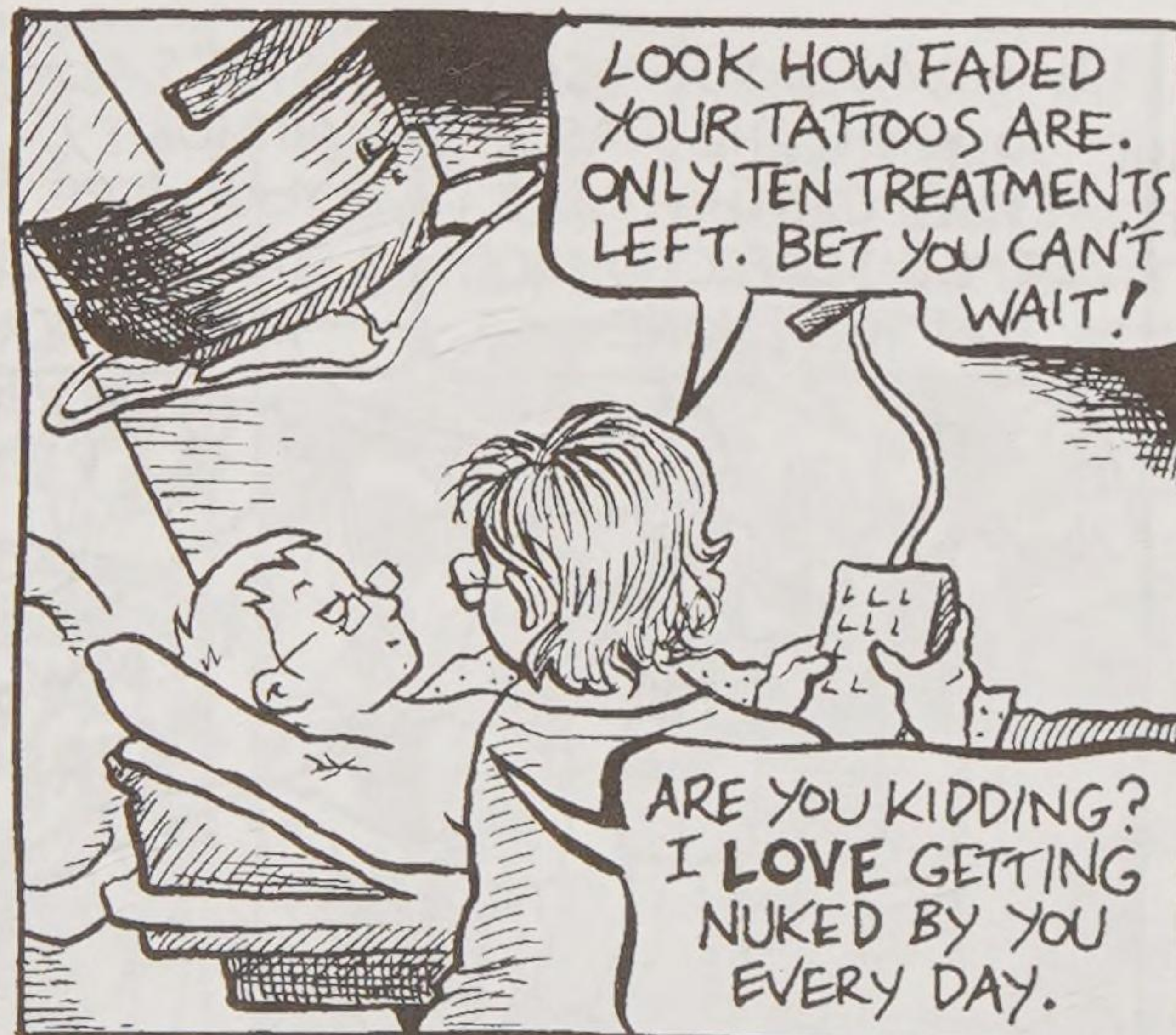
MEANWHILE...



OH, HE **LOVES** THE RED SOX!
THANK YOU, HON! THAT'S SO
SWEET! I HAVE A CARE
PACKAGE ALMOST READY
TO SHIP OFF TO HIM.



LOOK HOW FADED
YOUR TATTOOS ARE.
ONLY TEN TREATMENTS
LEFT. BET YOU CAN'T
WAIT!



ARE YOU KIDDING?
I **LOVE** GETTING
NUKED BY YOU
EVERY DAY.

SCHOOL'S OUT AT BUFFALO LAKE STATE...

THREE MONTHS
WITH NO YOUNG
REPUBLICANS!

I'LL DRINK TO THAT.
HEY, WE SHOULD HAVE
DRINKS SOON. I'D
LOVE TO MEET SAMIA.



DR. JORDAN! HEY!
SEE YOU IN THE FALL.
I'M TAKING "WOMEN IN
LITERATURE" WITH YOU.

I LOOK
FORWARD TO
IT, CYNTHIA.
HAVE A NICE
SUMMER.



OH, I WILL. I'M
INTERNING AT THE STATE
RIGHT TO LIFE OFFICE.
AND LEARNING ARABIC,
SO I CAN JOIN THE C.I.A.

WHO'S
TEACHING
ARABIC?



I FOUND A TUTOR IN
THE CITY. SAMIA SOMETHING
OR OTHER, AN ARAB-SOUNDING
NAME. HOPE SHE'S NOT A
TERRORIST.



Shameless

6/16

SAMIA HAS UNWITTINGLY AGREED TO TEACH ARABIC TO ONE OF GINGER'S MORE RIGHTWARD-LEANING STUDENTS.

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HOW WAS I SUPPOSED
TO KNOW SHE WAS
THAT CYNTHIA? SHE
SEEMED PERFECTLY NICE
ON THE PHONE.

SHE'S ALWAYS TRYING TO UNDERMINE MY AUTHORITY. I FELT OBLIGED TO TELL HER YOU WERE MY FRIEND. BUT I DON'T WANT THAT LITTLE MCCARTHYITE TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY PERSONAL LIFE, OKAY?



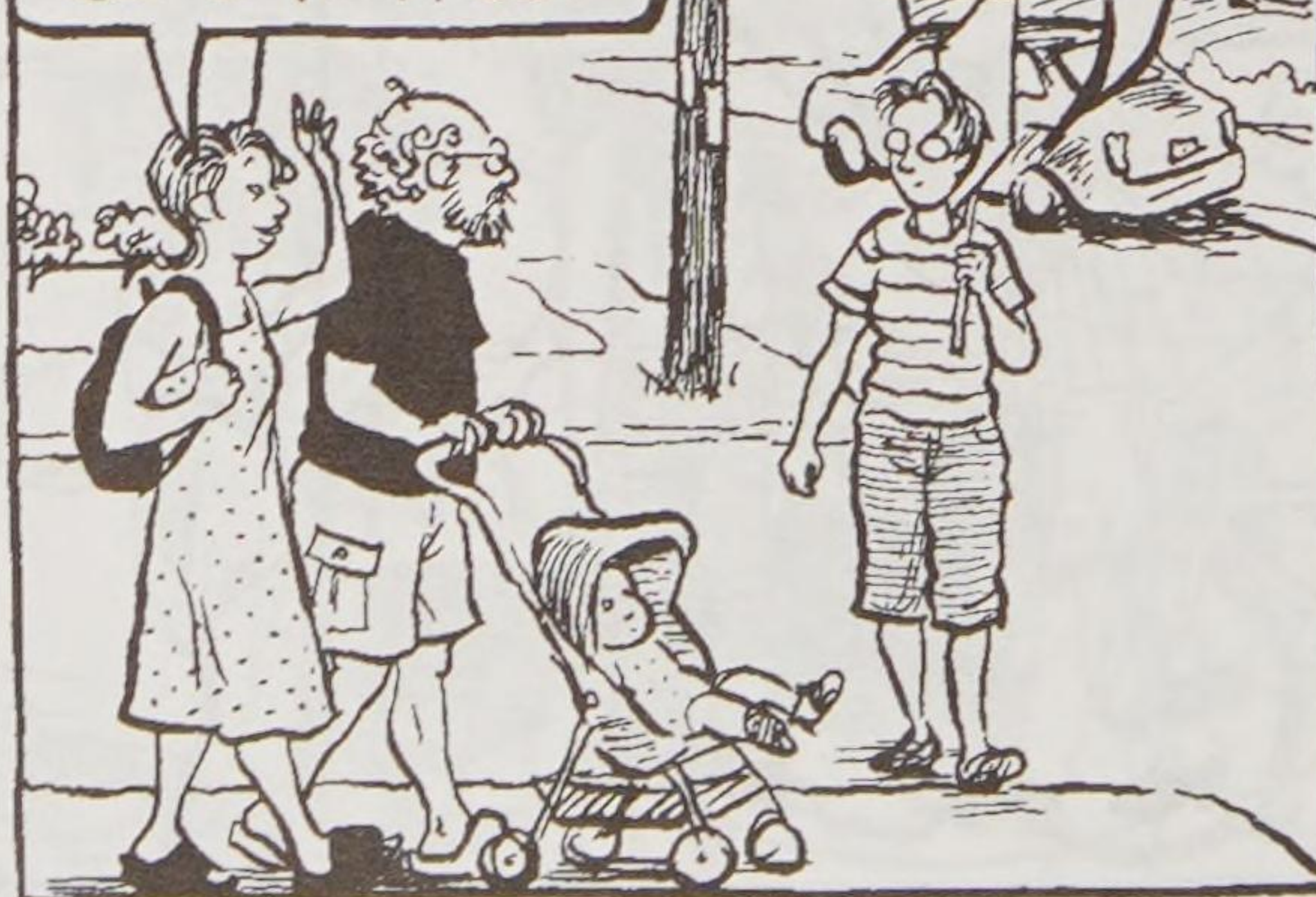
SO I SHOULDN'T
MENTION YOUR
PREDILECTION FOR
CROOKNECK SQUASH?



MEANWHILE...

HEY, MO! ARE YOU
GOING TO PRIDE?
COME WITH US.

ACTUALLY,
I'M GOING TO
GAY SHAME.



IT'S AT THE OTHER END OF THE PARK, TO PROTEST HOW PRIDE HAS GOTTEN SO CORPORATE. I THINK WE SHOULD MAKE IT MORE INCLUSIVE, THOUGH.

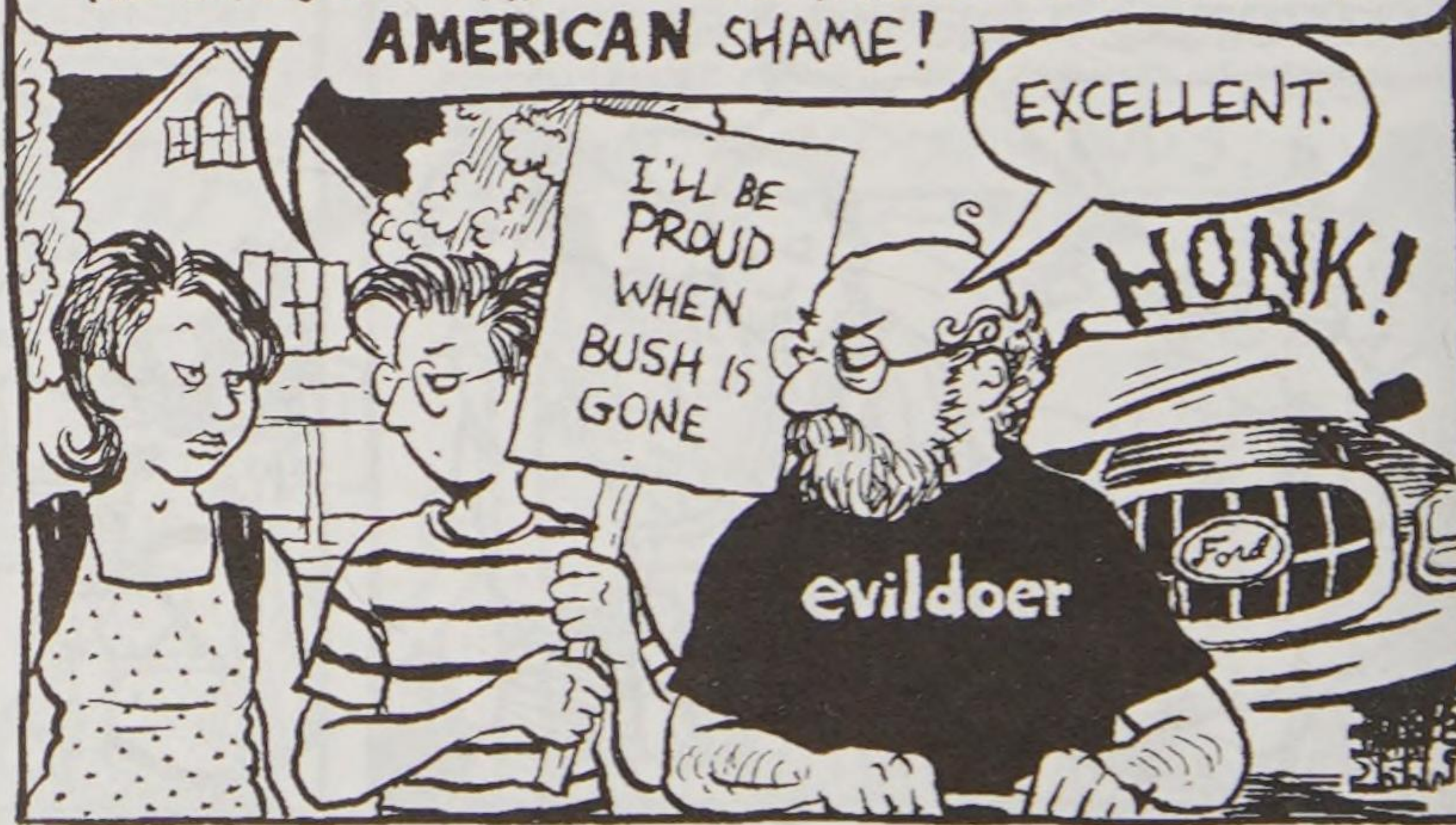
AMERICAN SHAME!

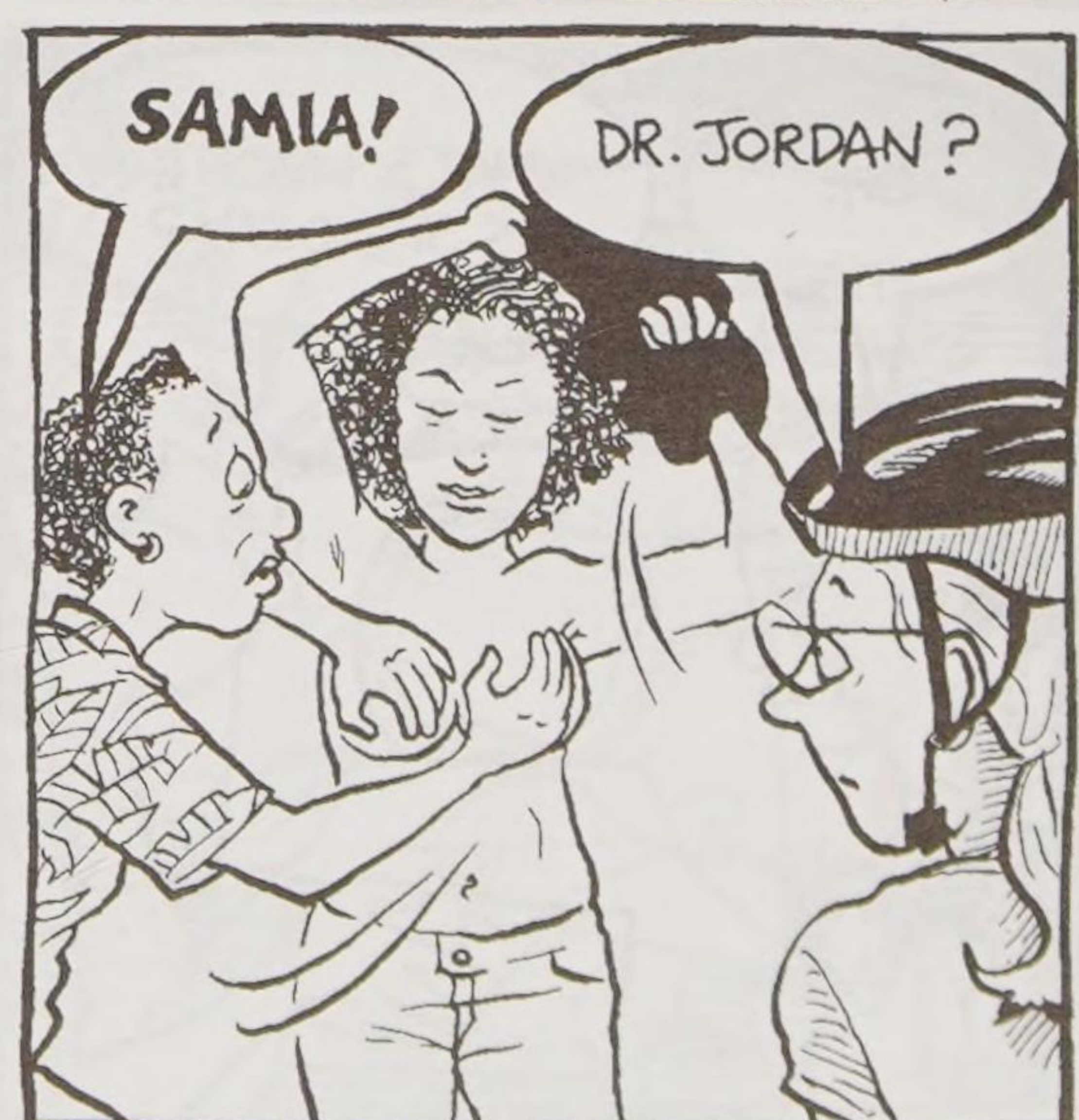
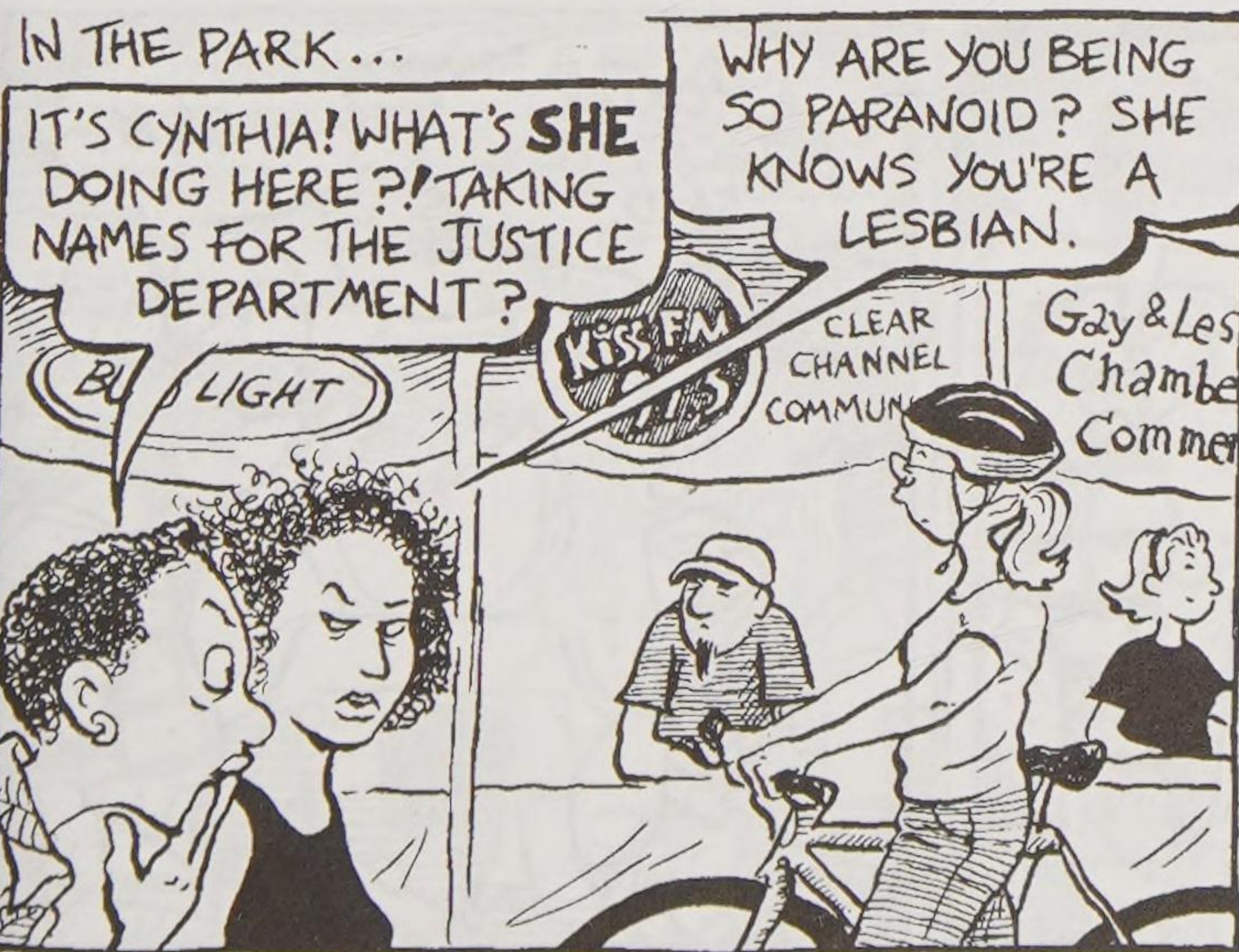
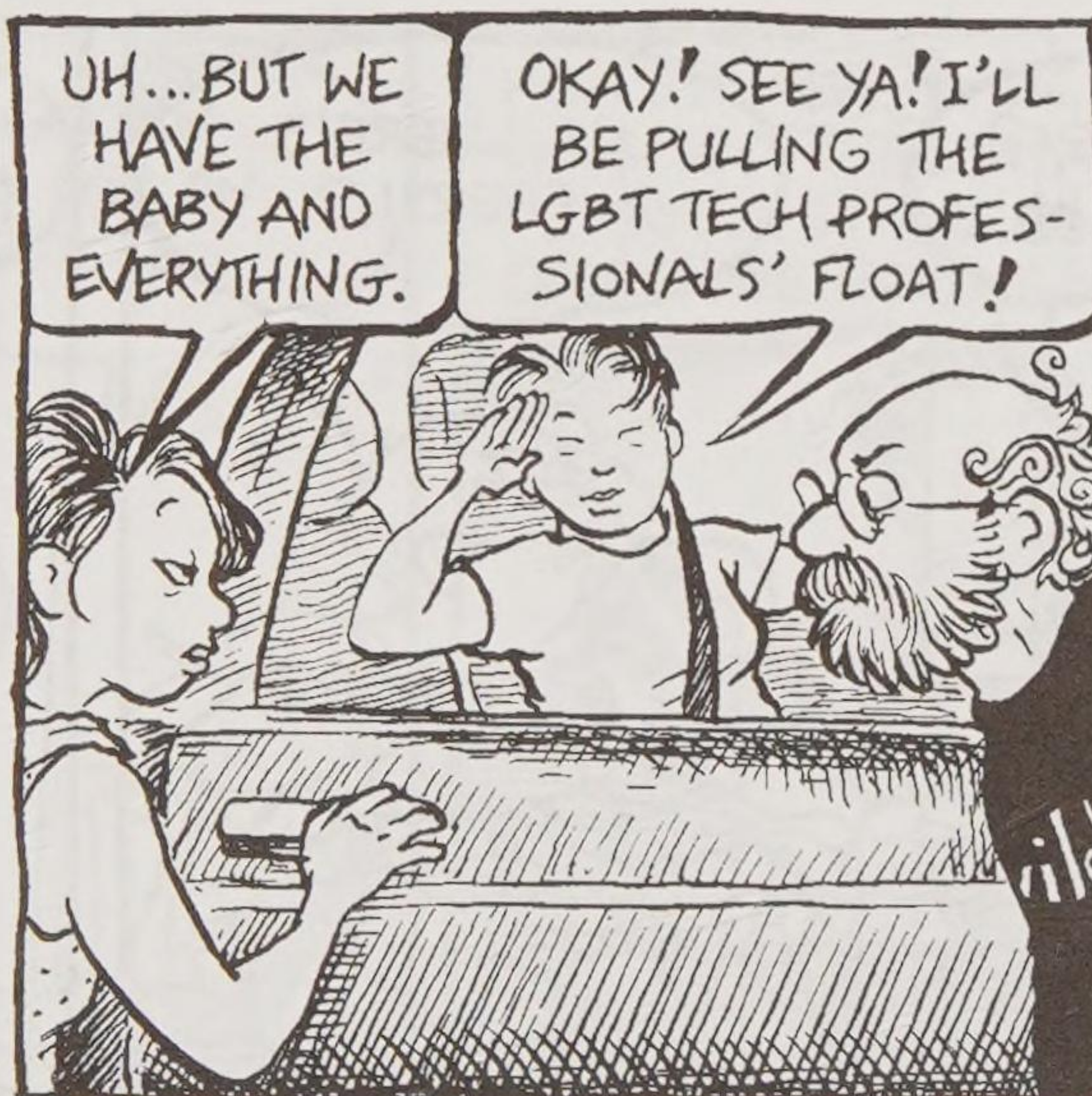
EXCELLENT.

HONK!

I'LL BE
PROUD
WHEN
BUSH IS
GONE

evildoer





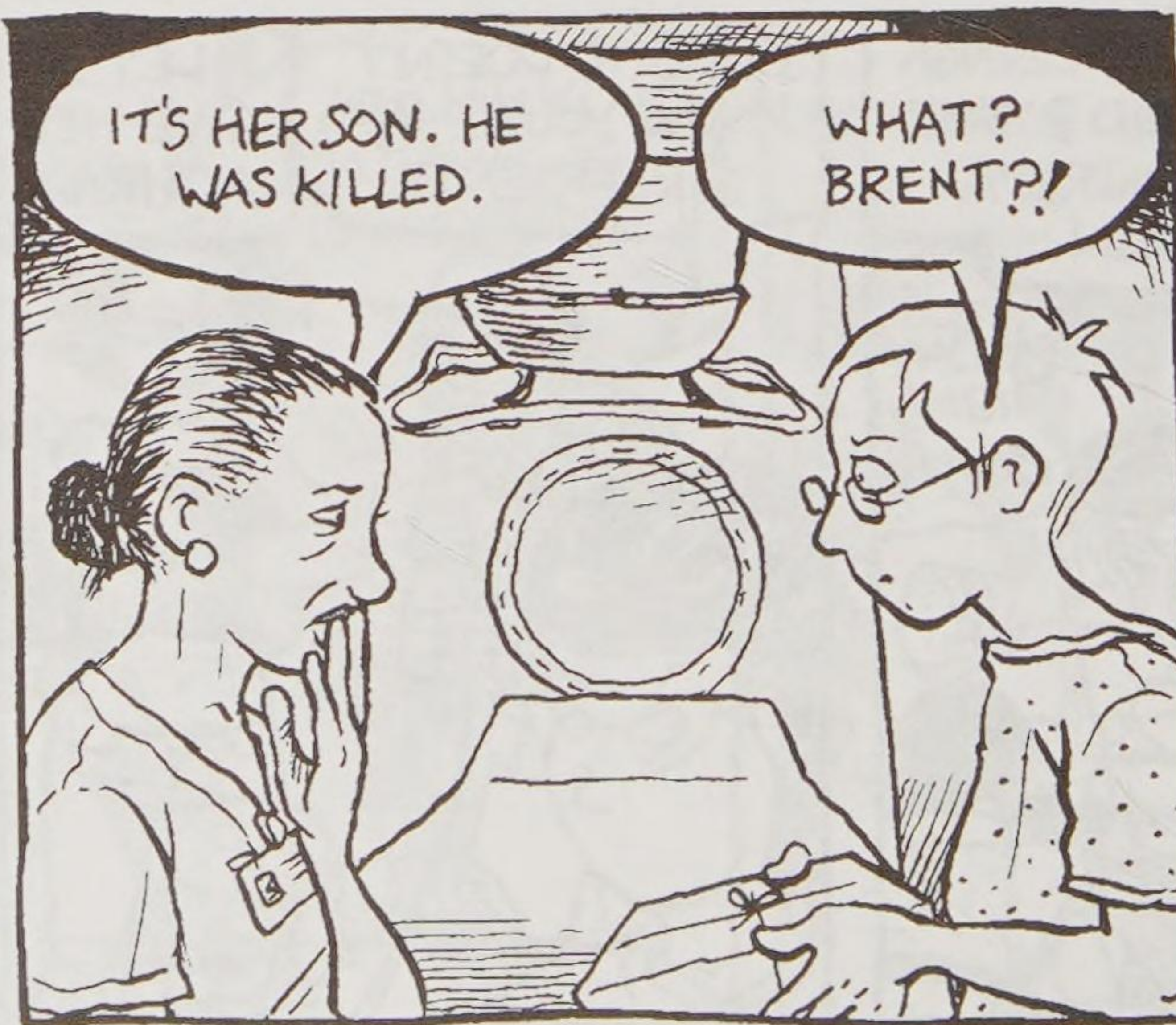
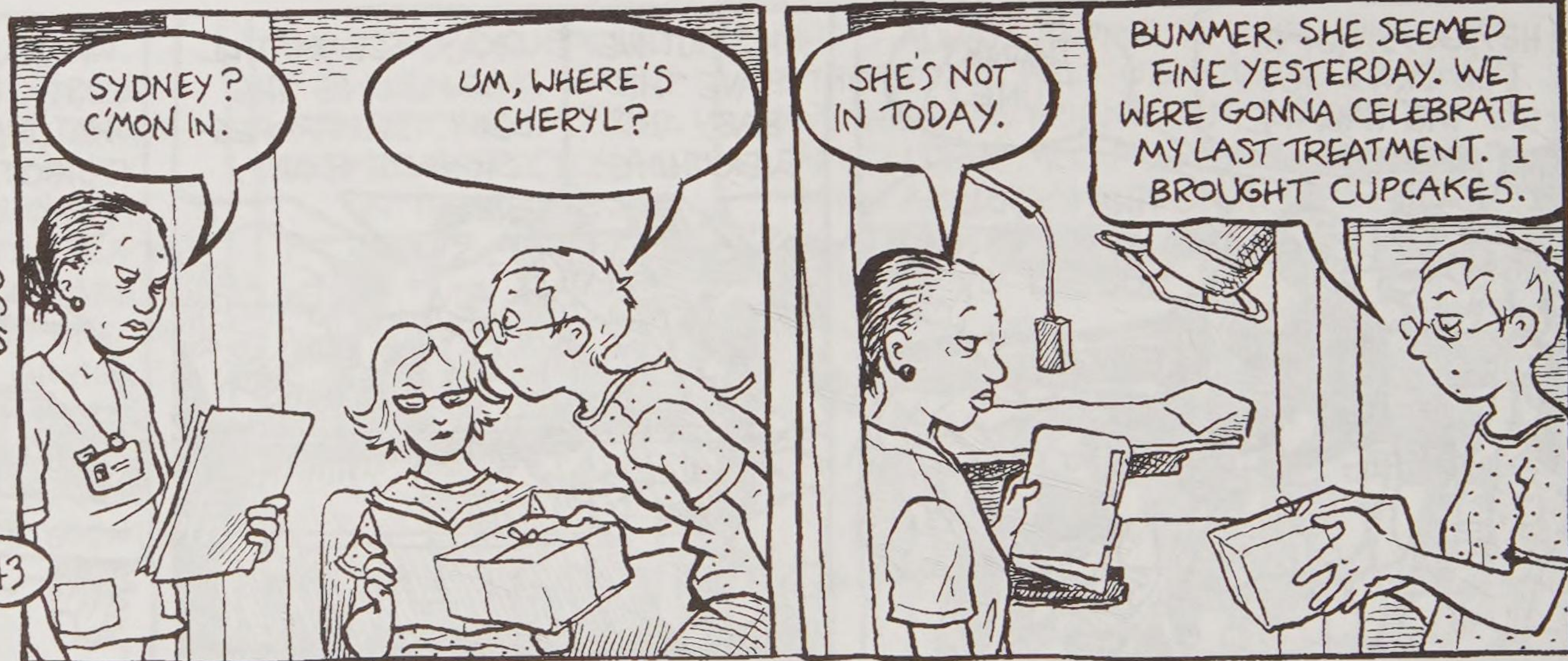
"Abstract words such as glory, honor, courage, or hallow were obscene."

~Ernest Hemingway,
A Farewell to Arms

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6/30



LATER THAT DAY...

HI, PUMPKIN PANTS. I
THOUGHT YOU'D BE NAPPING.

I GOT AN
IDEA FOR AN
ARTICLE...

HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE DONE SCHLEP-
PING TO THE HOSPITAL EVERY DAY?
I GOT A LITTLE SOMETHING TO
CELEBRATE GETTING YOUR LIFE BACK.

MY WORKING TITLE IS
"WORLD ON A LEASH:
PORNOGRAPHIC
TROPES IN SUPER-
POWER POLICY."

OH, SYDNEY, GIMME A BREAK. THIS
WAR IS HORRIBLE, AND SPINNING
ABSTRACT LITTLE THEORIES ABOUT
IT IN THE **JOURNAL OF JEJUNE
JARGON** ONLY TRIVIALIZES IT.

UM...JEEZ.

I'M SORRY, SWEETIE.
I GUESS "JEJUNE" WAS
A LITTLE HARSH.

Love thine enemy

IRONICALLY, LOTS OF CANCER SURVIVORS GET DEPRESSED **AFTER** FINISHING TREATMENT.

FAHRENHEIT 9/11



444

THEY'VE LOST THE STRUCTURE OF THE REGULAR APPOINTMENTS, PLUS THEY FEEL LIKE THEY'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING ACTIVE TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE.

AND STRANGELY, THEY ALSO DEVELOP AN EXTREME AVERSION TO BEING REFERRED TO IN THE THIRD PERSON.



I DON'T CARE IF HE'S DEAD I STILL WANT TO IMPEACH REAGAN

OH, JEEZ. LOOK WHO'S COMING OUT OF THE EARLY SHOW.



CYNTHIA! AASALAAMU ALEIKUM!

HEY! WA-ALEIKUM AASSALAAM.



GOOD ACCENT. YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO YOUR TAPES.

MO, SYDNEY, THIS IS CYNTHIA. SHE'S STUDYING ARABIC WITH SAMIA THIS SUMMER.

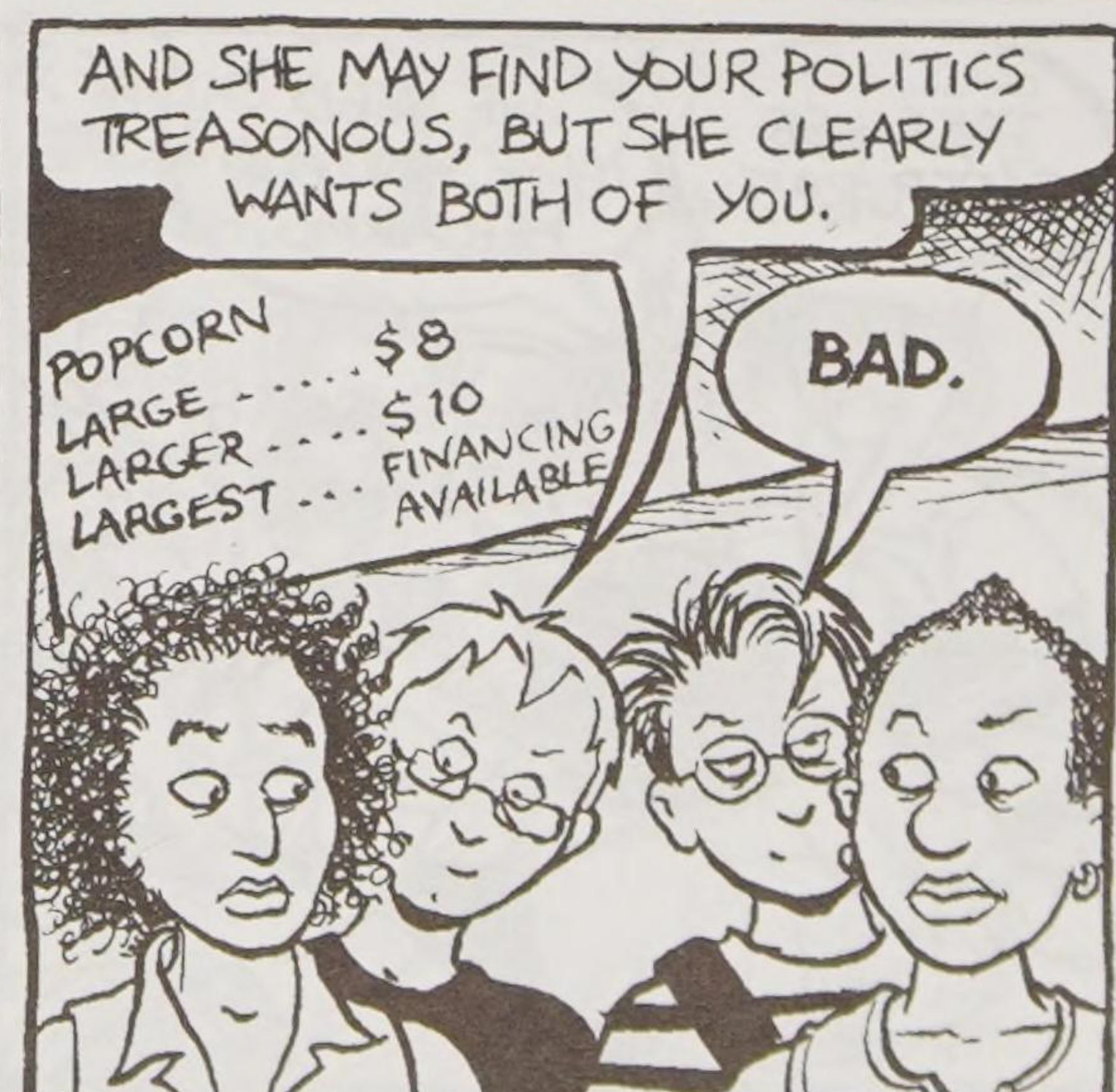
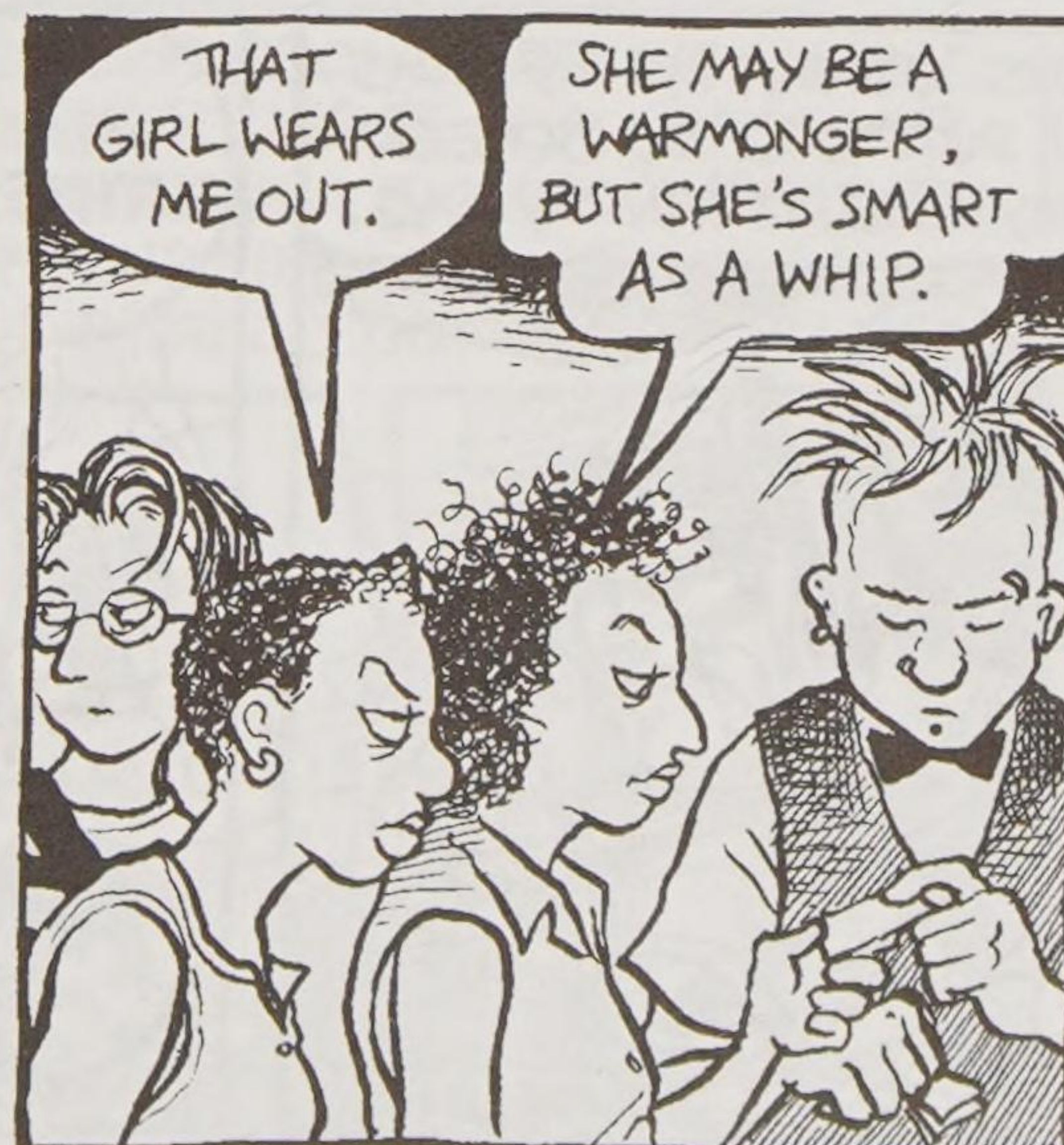
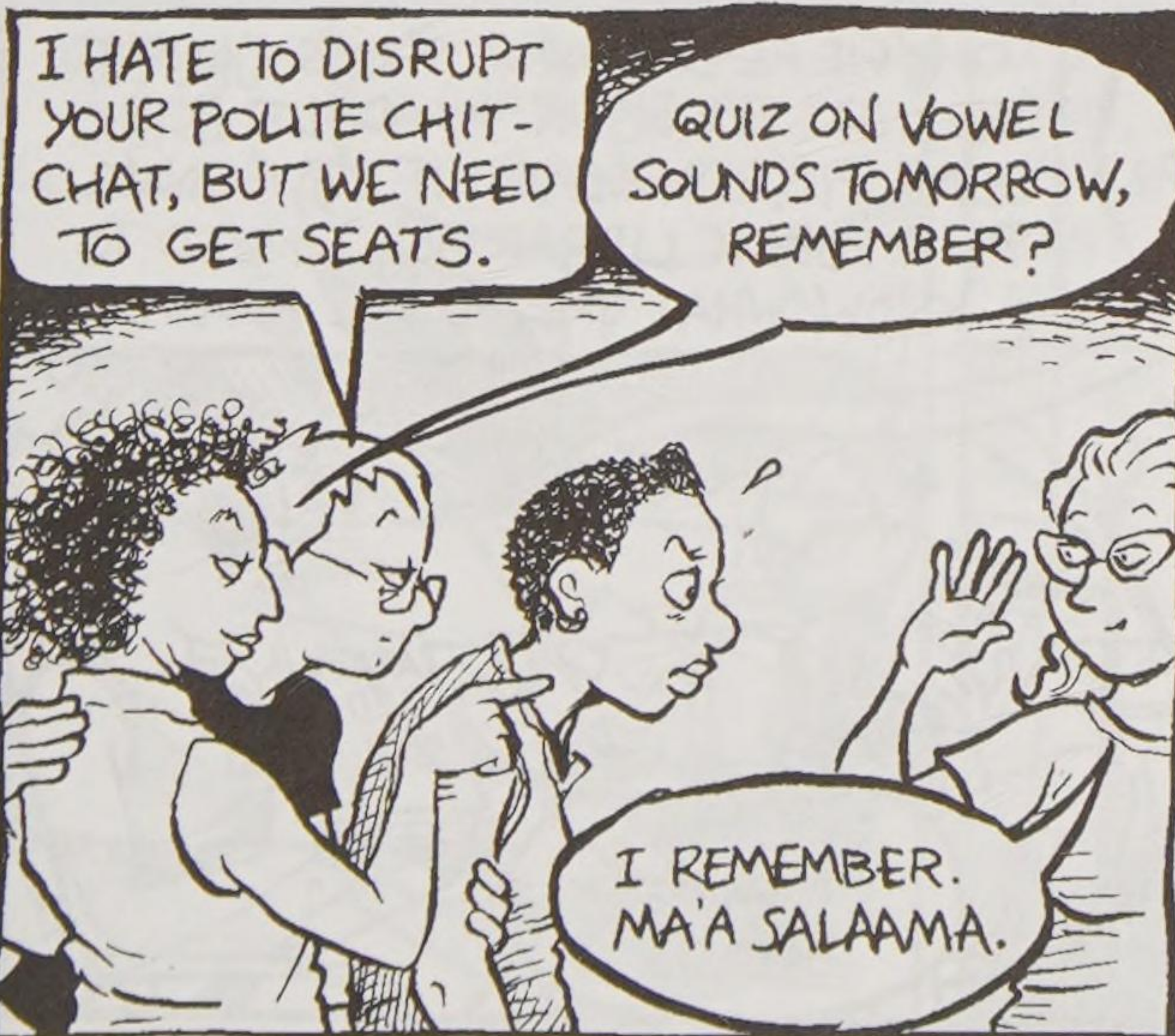
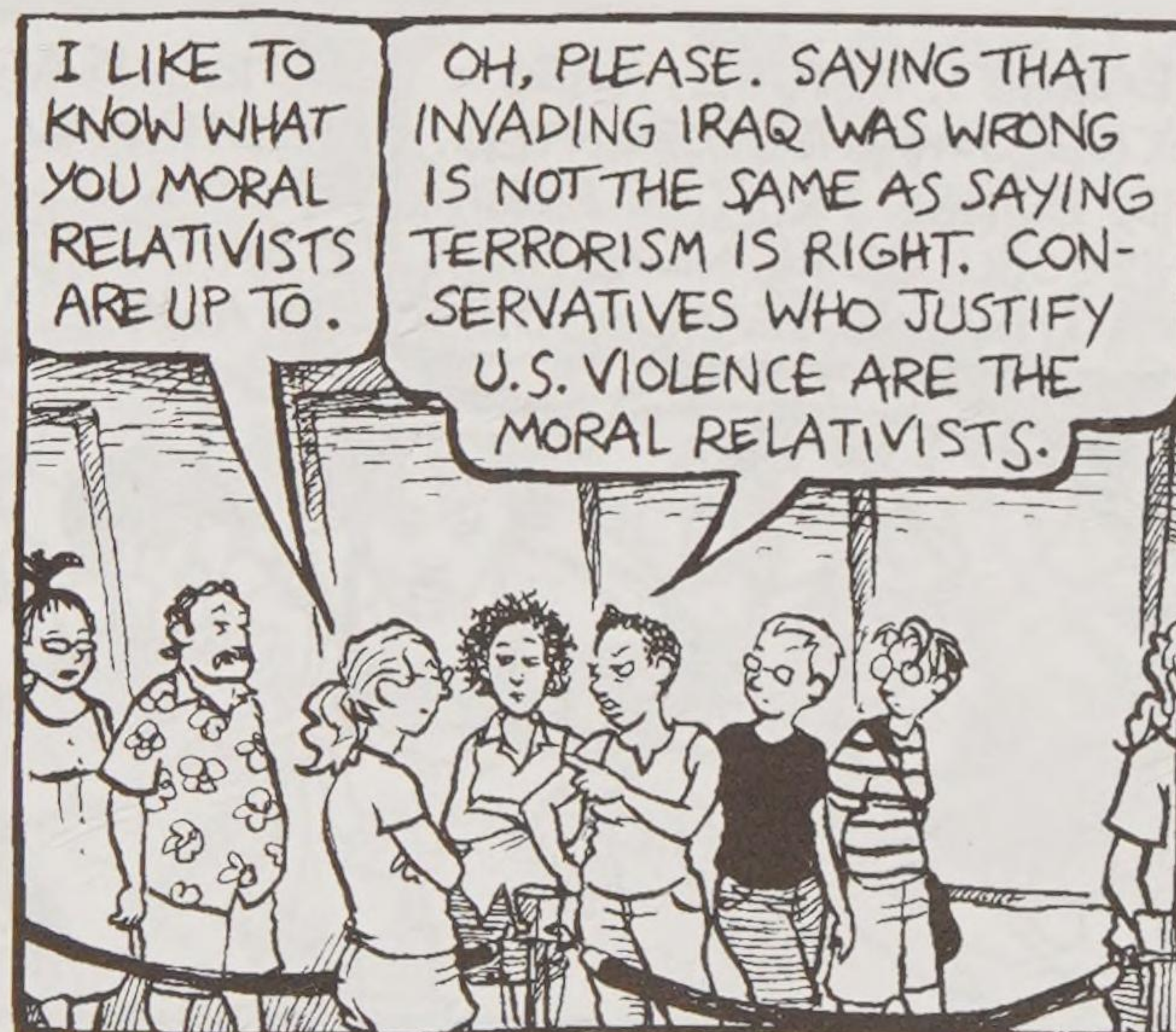
FAHRENHEIT 9/11



HI.

GARFIELD

ROMANTIC NIGHT OUT? I GUESS THIS IS THE BIG DATE MOVIE FOR LIBERALS.



a-lyin'
in the
sand

7/28

445

GOD. BEHEADINGS, TORTURE, MASS
RAPE, GENOCIDE, JOHN NEGROPONTE...
WHY DO THEY BOTHER PRINTING FRESH
PAPERS? THIS COULD BE THE NEWS FROM
TWENTY OR A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

"HISTORY IS A
NIGHTMARE
FROM WHICH
I AM TRYING
TO AWAKE."

BUT **ARE** YOU? ARE ANY OF
US **REALLY** TRYING? IF WE
WERE, WOULD WE BE AT THE
BEACH? ISN'T OUR INACTION
A KIND OF ACQUIESCENCE,
OF COMPLICITY EVEN?

TAKE HER
PAPER, RAF.

WE NEED
MORE SAND FOR
HER ARMS.

IF YOU'RE GONNA PIN MY ARMS
DOWN, PUT MORE SUNSCREEN
ON MY NOSE. IT'S IN MY BAG.

WHAT'S
THIS?

OH, WE'RE STUDYING THOSE "LEFT
BEHIND" BOOKS IN MY ADULT POP-
ULAR FICTION CLASS. IF I'M GONNA
BE A PUBLIC LIBRARIAN, I NEED TO
KNOW WHAT THE PUBLIC READS.

THE
PUBLIC
READS?



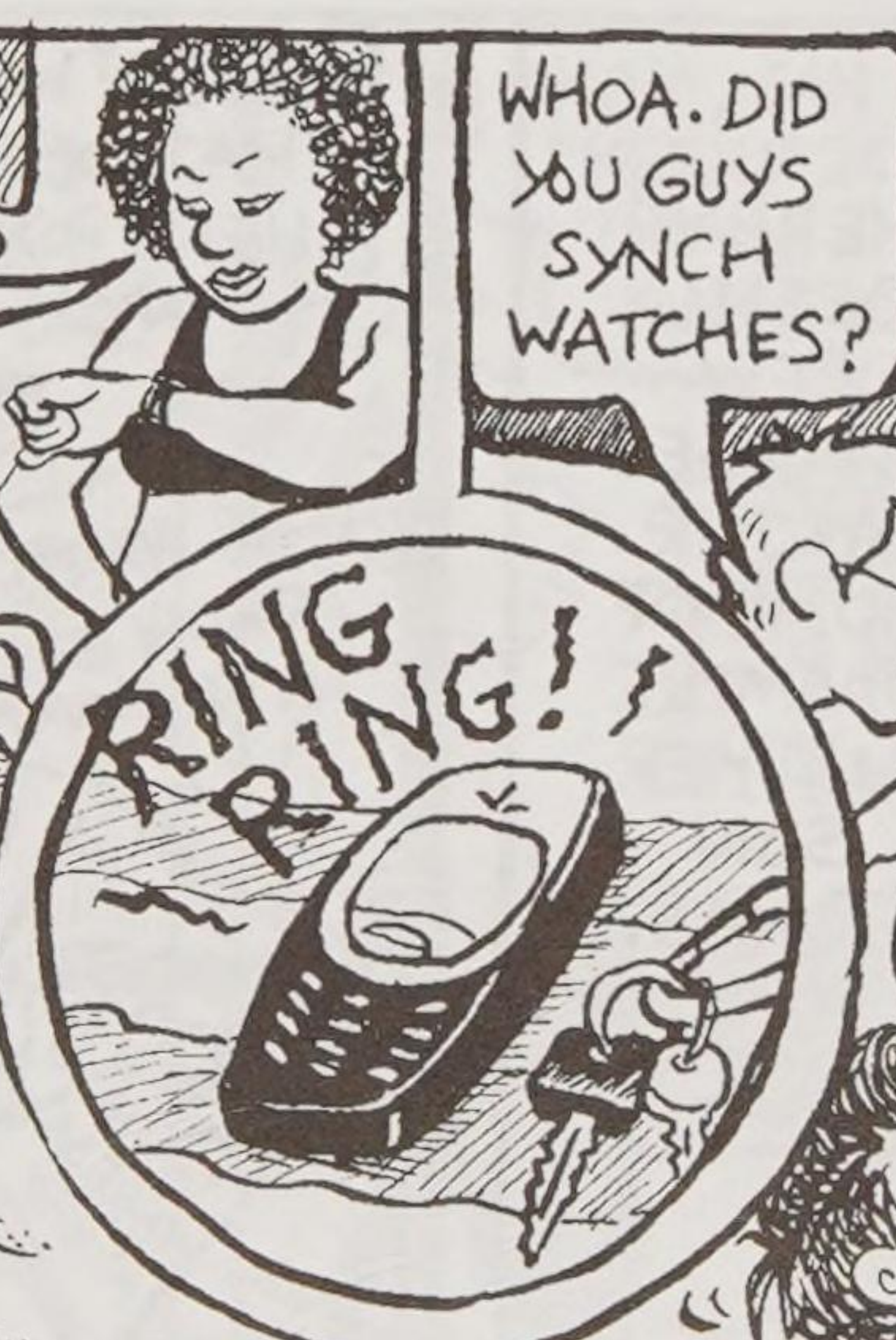
WELL, THEY READ **THAT** CRAP LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW.



CAN YOU MOVE?

NOT REALLY.

OKAY. IT'S TIME.



WHOA. DID YOU GUYS SYNCH WATCHES?

YEP.

MO, LOIS COULDN'T BE HERE SO SHE'LL BE JOINING US BY PHONE FROM THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.



HUH?



MO? YOU THERE?

LOIS?
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?



IT'S AN INTERVENTION, BABE. WE ALL LOVE YOU, BUT IF YOU VOTE FOR NADER WE'LL MAKE YOU WEAR A BIG RED "N" FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. OKAY, I GOTTA GO... A MOUNTED PATROL'S GOT MY KERRY WIG.



THIS IS A BAD DREAM, RIGHT?

A FOUR-YEAR-LONG ONE, AND THAT WAS YOUR WAKE-UP CALL.

siren thong

8/11

THERE'VE BEEN A FEW CHANGES AT THE HOME OF JASMINE AND HER SON JONAS.

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JANIS! WILL YOU SHUT THAT OFF AND GET UP HERE? YOU NEED TO FINISH PACKING.

HE WANTS TO GROW BREASTS LIKE MOMMY

LADIES JOURNAL
JOHN & TERESA W
KERRY

I THINK HE... I MEAN, **SHE** HAS NOW OFFICIALLY WATCHED THAT OPRAH EPISODE ON TRANS-GENDER KIDS MORE TIMES THAN THE "LITTLE MERMAID."

SO HERE'S STUART'S SLEEPING BAG...

AND THIS IS SPARROW'S RAIN JACKET. AND SOME FLEECE STUFF OF MINE.

THANKS. GOD, I HOPE THIS CAMP IS AS GREAT AS IT SOUNDS.

YEAH. IF SHE COULD JUST BE HERSELF WITH OTHER KIDS FOR A WHILE, WHERE THE GENDER THING ISN'T AN ISSUE.

• ARCHERY
• CANOEING
• DIVERSITY TRAINING
• LANYARD-WEAVING

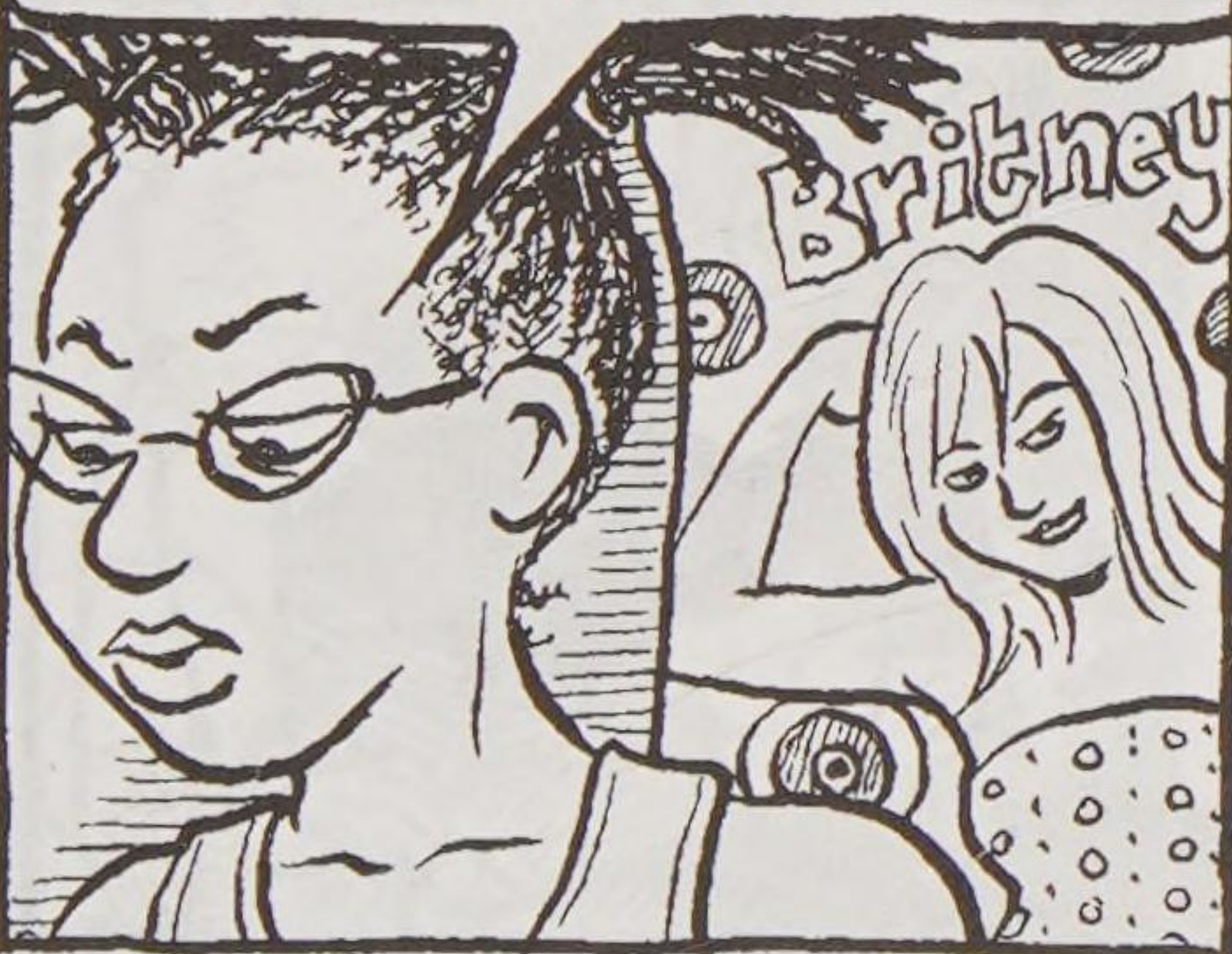
CAMP
TEN TREES
SESSION for
LGBTQ
YOUTH

JANIS!
NOW!

YOU'RE REALLY DOING GREAT WITH ALL THIS, YOU KNOW.

A TIP O' THE NIB TO WWW.CAMPTENTREES.ORG

I DUNNO. I MISS MY ANGELIC LITTLE BOY WHO PLAYED WITH DOLLS. NOW I'M LIVING WITH THIS...THIS **VALLEY GIRL** WHO STEALS MY CLOTHES AND IGNORES ME.



BUT ON THE UPSIDE, ALL MY ANXIETY ABOUT BEING A SINGLE MOTHER RAISING A YOUNG BLACK MAN IN THIS CULTURE HAS COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED.



MOM, CAN I GET A SPARKLY "KERRY 2004" PIN? PLUS I THINK I MIGHT LIKE THE NAME TERESA BETTER THAN JANIS.



UH...LET'S GET YOUR STUFF TOGETHER, PRINCESS. LOOK, I BROUGHT YOU SOME NICE, WARM FLEECE.

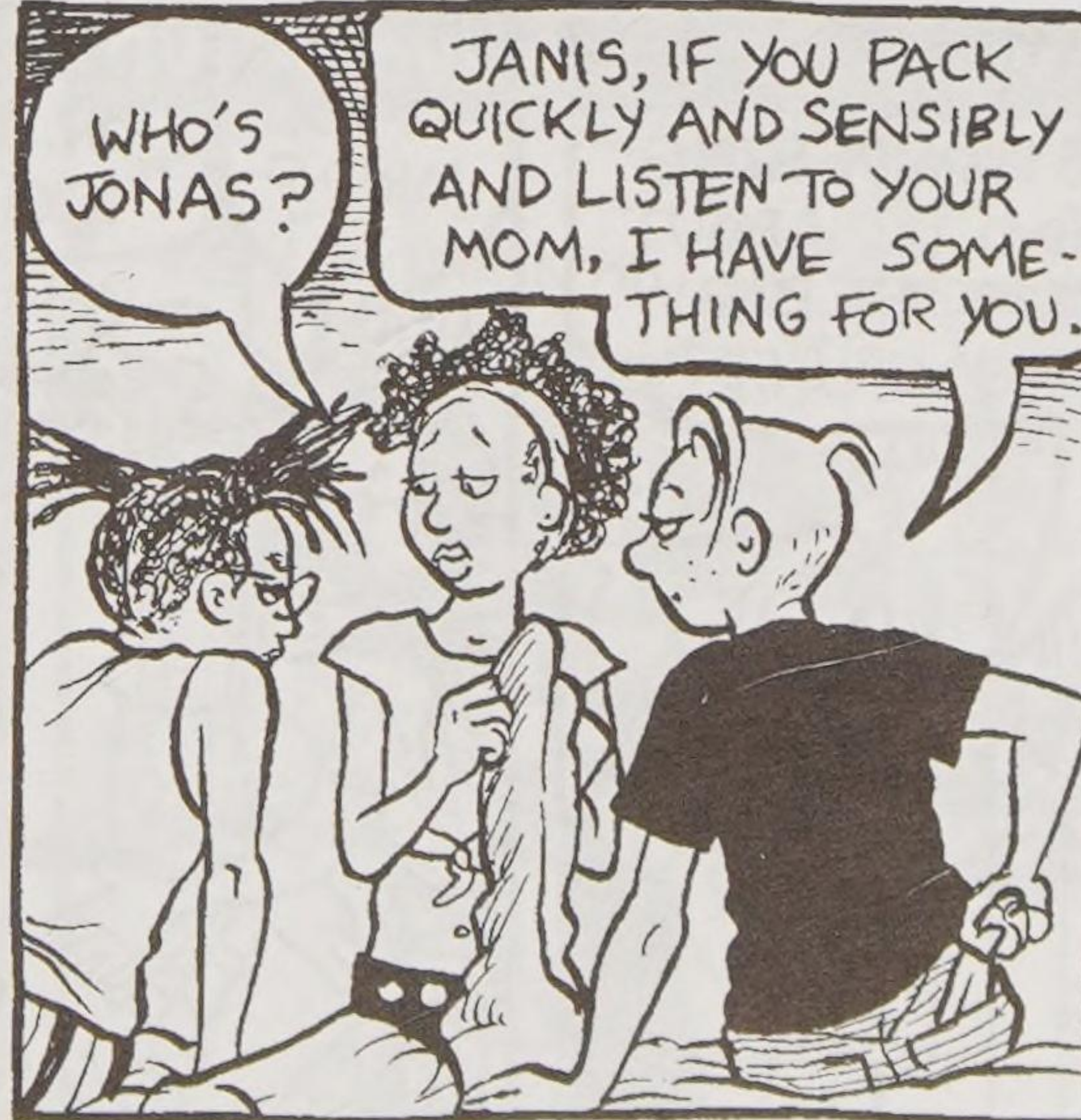
IT'S HIDEOUS! CAN'T I TAKE MOM'S CASHMERE SWEATER SET?

JONAS!



WHO'S JONAS?

JANIS, IF YOU PACK QUICKLY AND SENSIBLY AND LISTEN TO YOUR MOM, I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.



OMIGOD, I LOVE YOU!

HELLO KITTY THONG.



ON MESSAGE

8/25

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IN QUEST OF THE ELUSIVE UNDECIDED VOTER, DEMOCRATS ARE NOT BEING SHY ABOUT THEIR TIME-HONORED AMERICAN VALUES.

THEY LOVE THE FLAG AND THEY'RE STRONG ON DEFENSE.

USA! USA! YESS! EAT AMERICAN DUST!

GOD, THESE LYCRA SPEEDSUITS HAVE REALLY LIVENED UP THE TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS.

I'M GONNA GET MORE CHIPS. YOU WANT ANOTHER BEER?



THEY'RE VERY BIG ON FAMILY.

LOIS!

WELL, I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU TWO DID ABOUT SEX NOW THAT THE BABY SLEEPS IN YOUR BED.



DO YOU MIND?

NOT AT ALL. CARRY ON. I'M JUST LOOKING FOR A SNACK.



THEY FROWN ON TERRORISM.

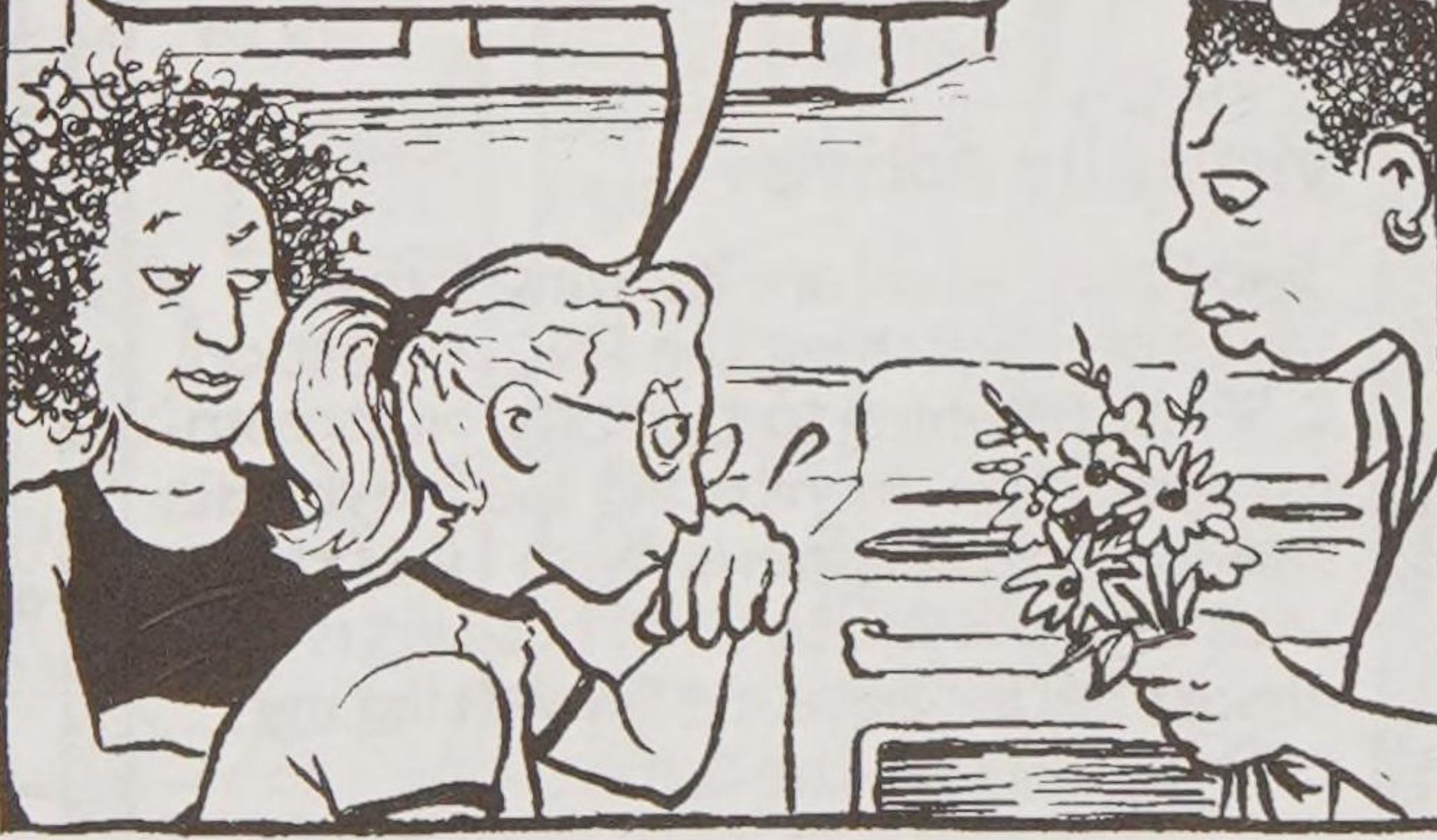


GINGER! I DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME IN! UM...THE ARABIC LESSON RAN A LITTLE OVER.



IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, DR. JORDAN. SHE'S JUST COMFORTING ME. I CAME OUT TO MY BOSS AT THE RIGHT-TO-LIFE OFFICE TODAY AND SHE FREAKED ON ME.

CAME OUT?



DID WE MENTION THE FAMILY THING?

HI, SWEETIE! I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU! HOW WAS CAMP? ARE YOU SAD IT'S OVER? DID YOU MISS ME?

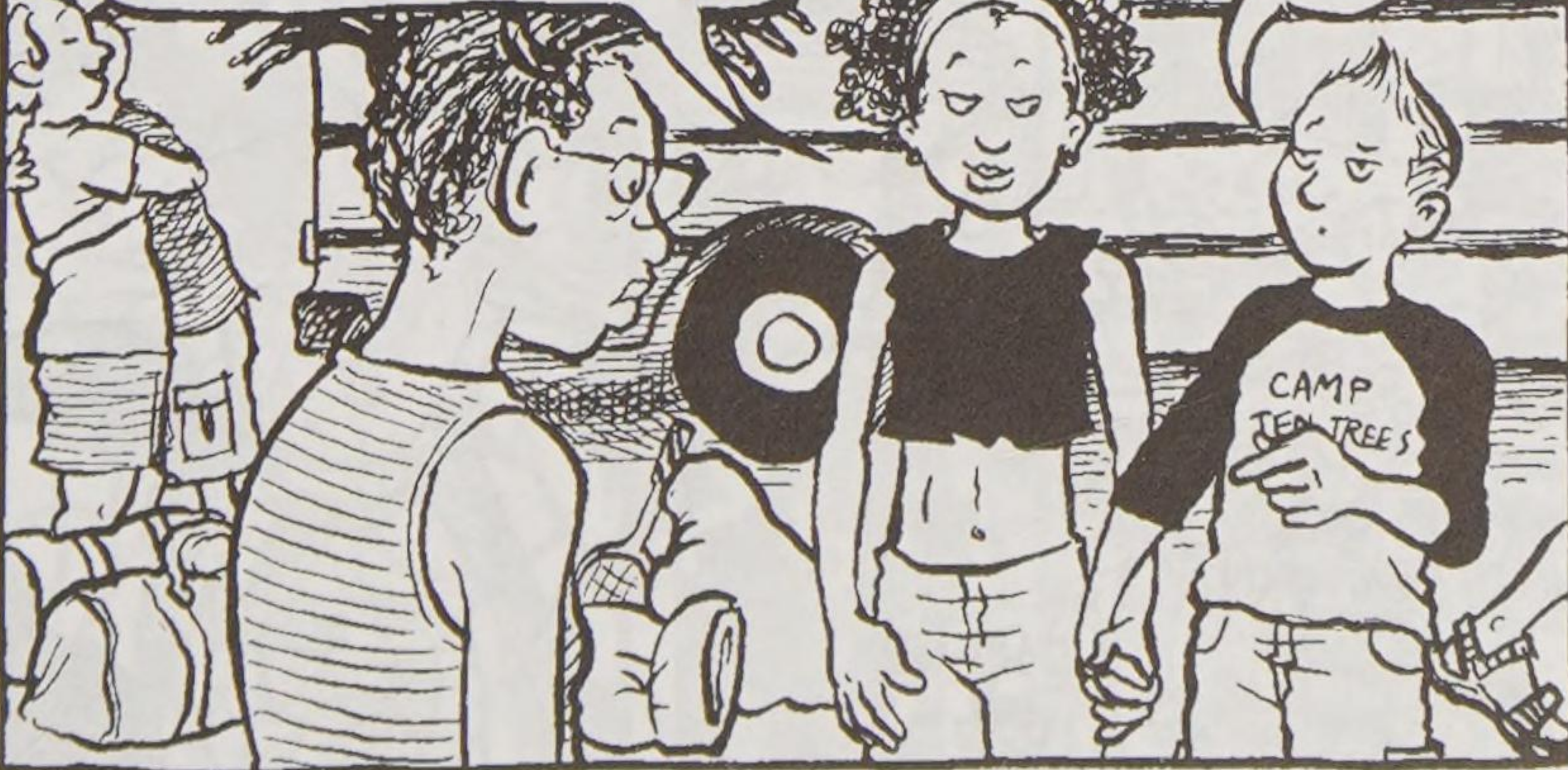
NOT REALLY.



THEY BELIEVE CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE.

THIS IS MY BOYFRIEND ALEX. HE STARTED TRANSITIONING WHEN HE WAS NINE!

YO.



BUT ABOVE ALL, THEY'RE PEOPLE OF FAITH.

D'YOU REALLY THINK HE CAN WIN?

IF HE DOESN'T, WE'RE MOVING TO MADAGASCAR.



power to
the people

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SOMEWHERE IN THE BLOGOSPHERE...
subversive parenting
notes from a stay-at-home dad

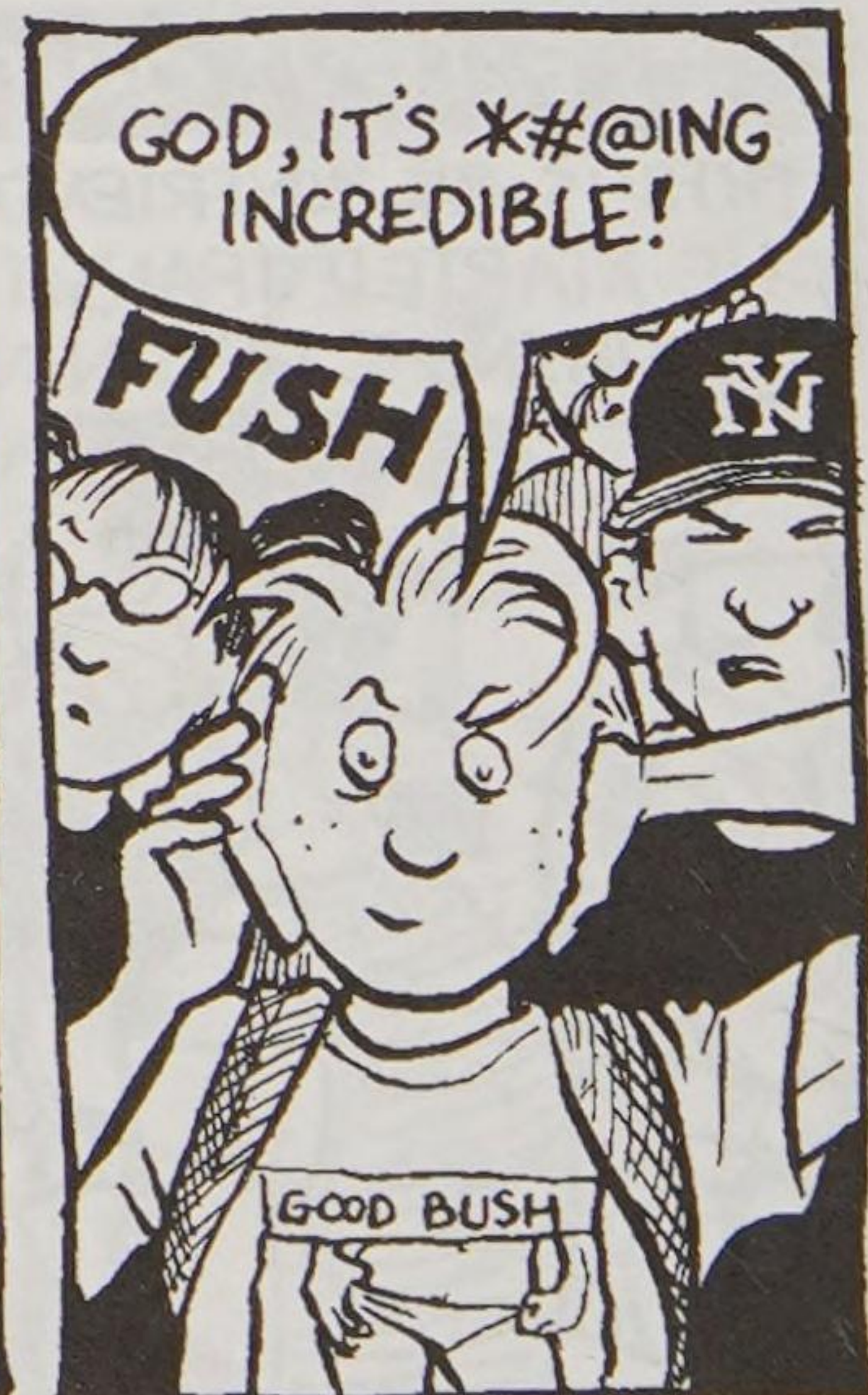
About Me

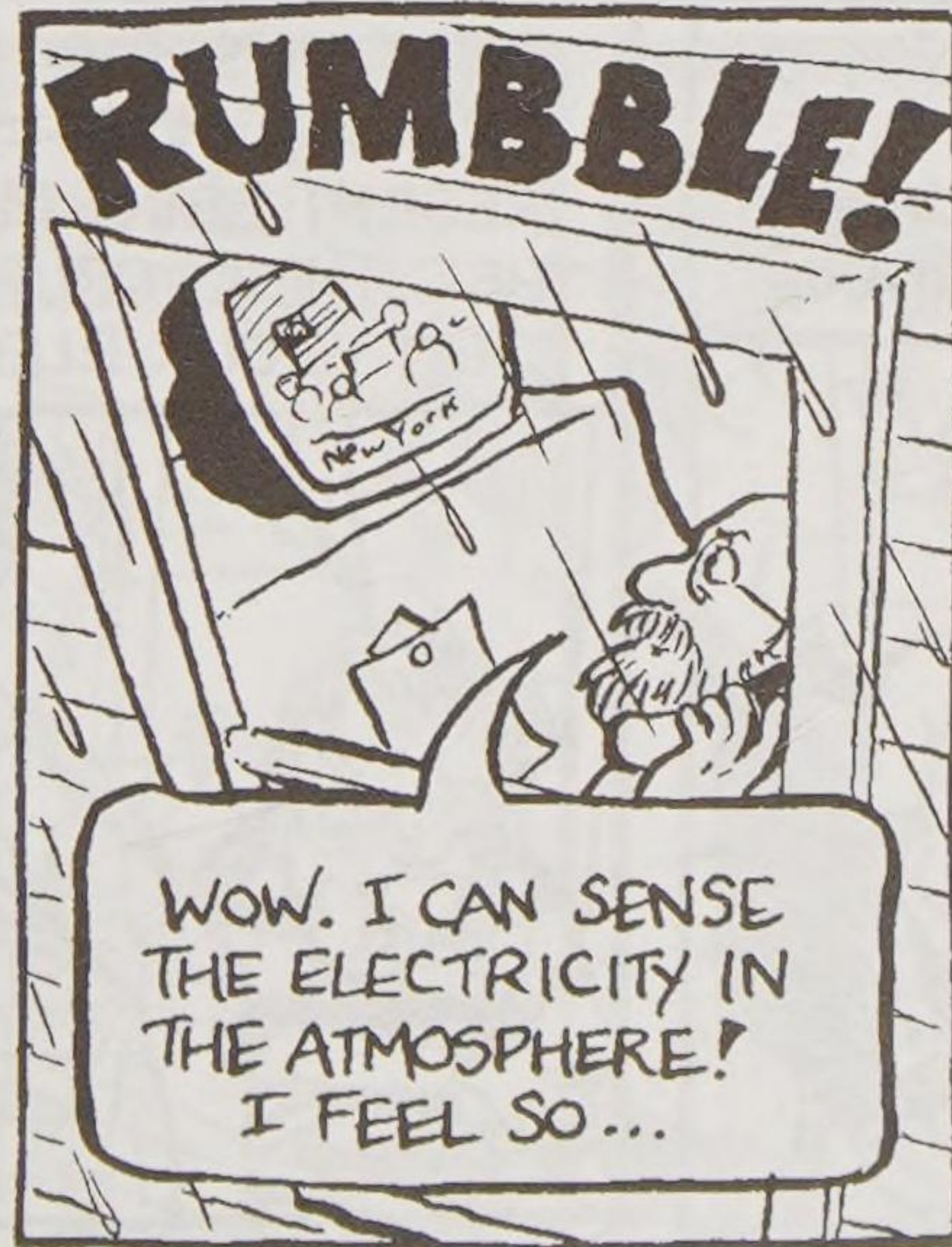
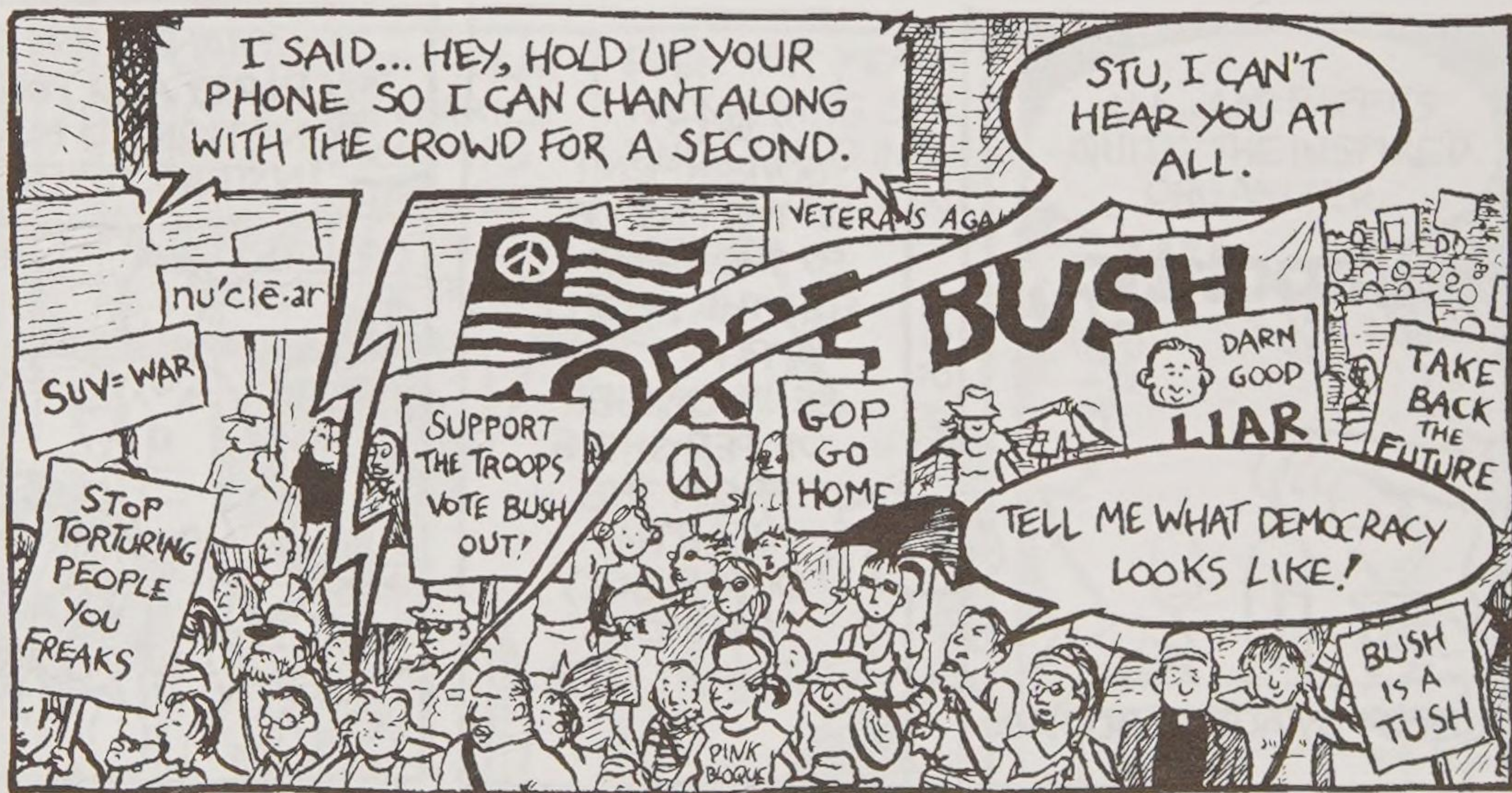
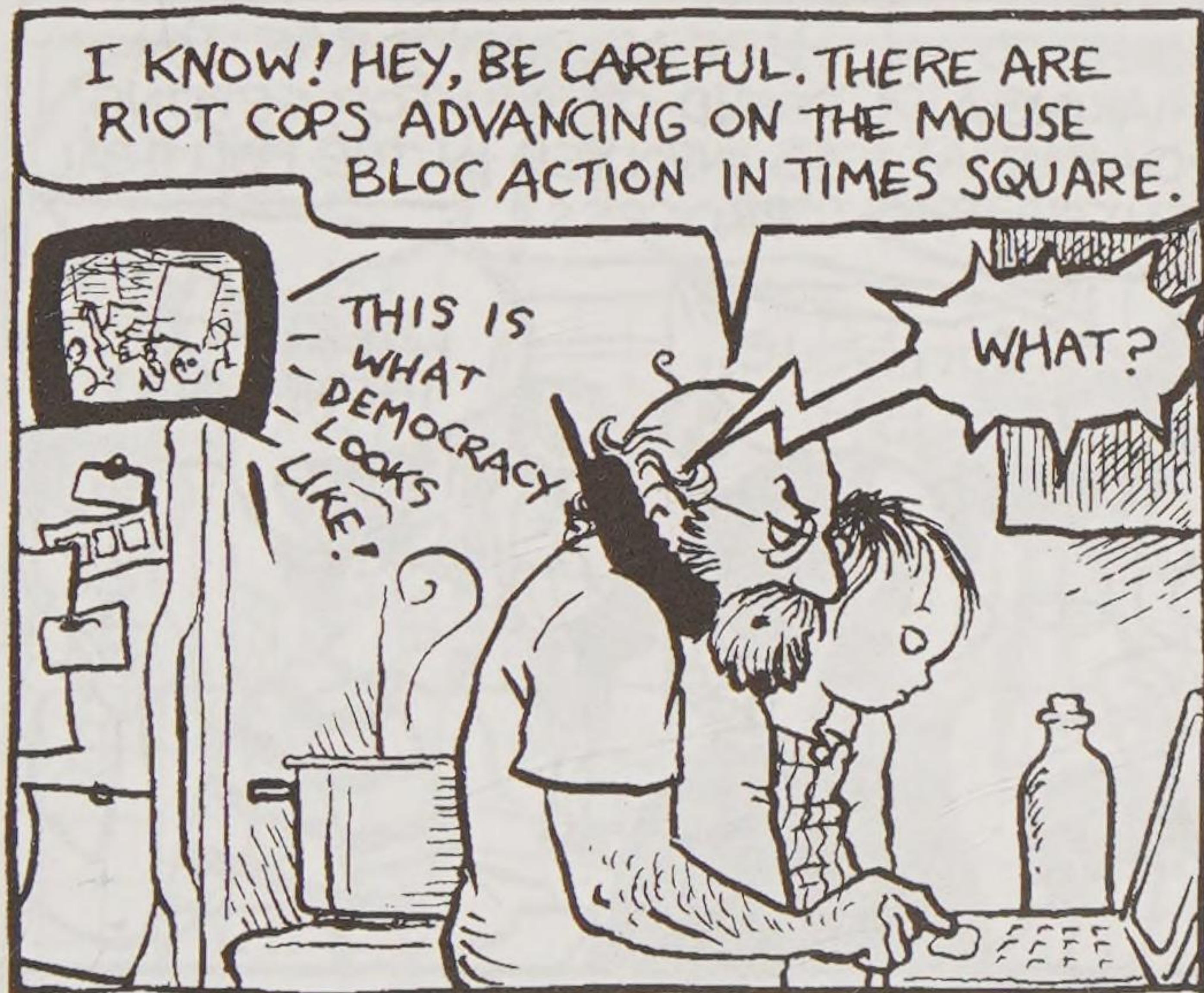


Name: Stuart
Goodman
Location:

8.29.04
virtually active

Jiao Raizel and I are canning tomato sauce and watching the RNC protest on C-SPAN, listening to the rally on streaming radio, and monitoring the indymedia site for breaking news. Wish I was there with my housemate Lois, but this is almost better because I'm getting my canning done at the same time.





impolitic

9/22

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AS
GOVERNMENT
OF THE PEOPLE,
BY THE PEOPLE,
FOR THE PEOPLE
APPEARS TO
BE IN DANGER
OF PERISHING
FROM THE
EARTH,
OUR PLUCKY
PATRIOTS
ATTEMPT CPR.

... SO THANKS FOR COMING TO
MY PARTY AND FOR MAKING A
DONATION TO MoveOn PAC
INSTEAD OF PRESENTS.

HAPPY ELEVENTH, RAF. I'M
PROUD OF YOU FOR GETTING
SO INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL
PROCESS.

OH, PUH-
LEEZE! CUE
THE VIOLINS.

Barbecue
BUSH

CLARICE HAS SOME
NERVE TURNING HER
KID'S BIRTHDAY INTO
A FUNDRAISER!

IT WAS RAFFI'S
IDEA. I THINK
IT'S GREAT.

JEEZ, MO! I'M
DELIGHTED TO GIVE
MONEY. DEMOCRACY
ITSELF IS AT STAKE.

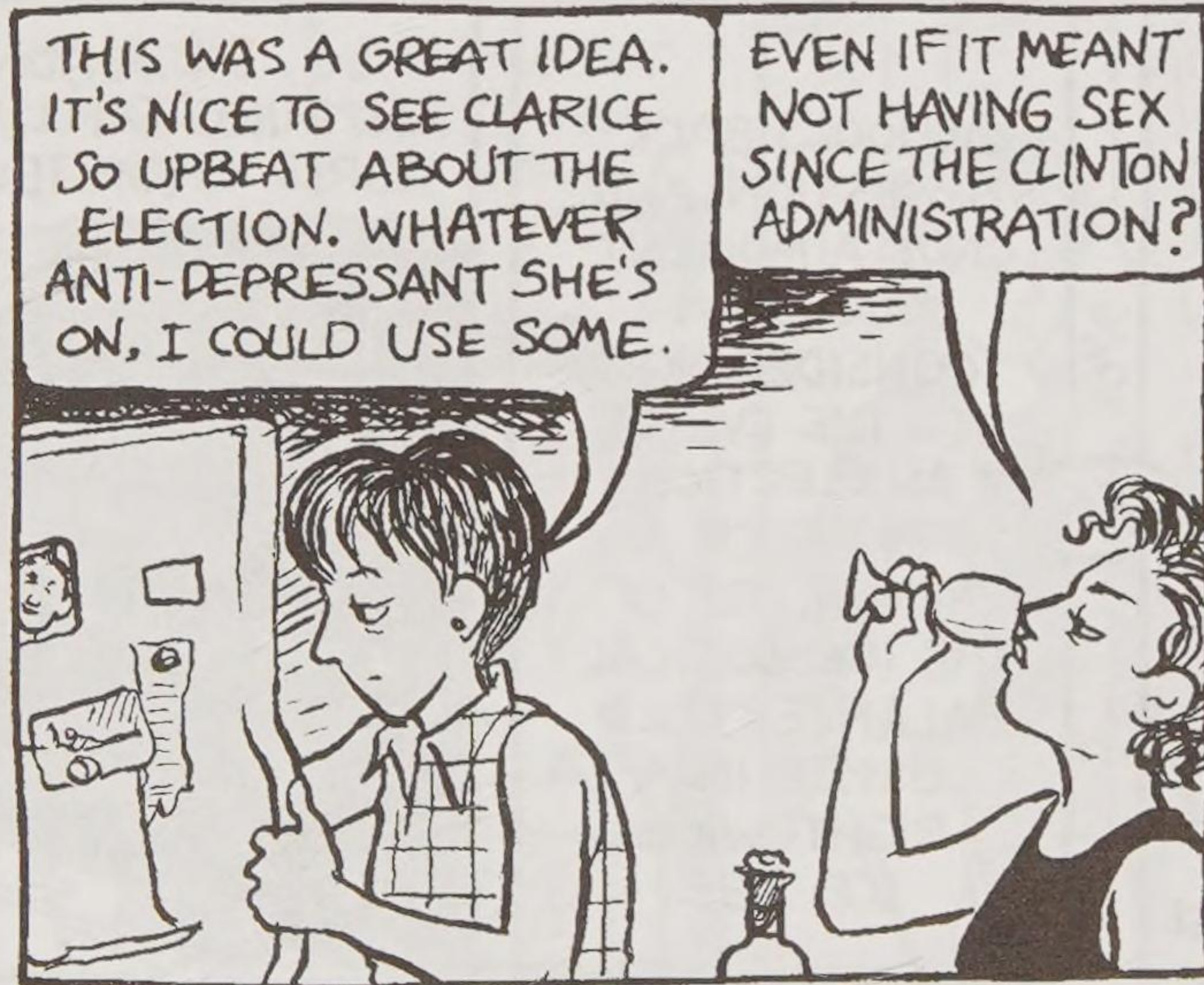
BUT THAT'S JUST IT! IT'S NOT DEMO-
CRACY IF YOU HAVE TO **BUY** IT! I
RESENT BEING MADE COMPLICIT IN
THE... THE CORRUPT **PUTRESCENCE**
THAT IS OUR ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

HAVE
YOU SEEN
TONI?

HUH. NOT
IN A WHILE.

HAMM
9

RRIP



"What is the first part of politics? **education.** The second? **education.** And the third? **education.**"

~Michelet

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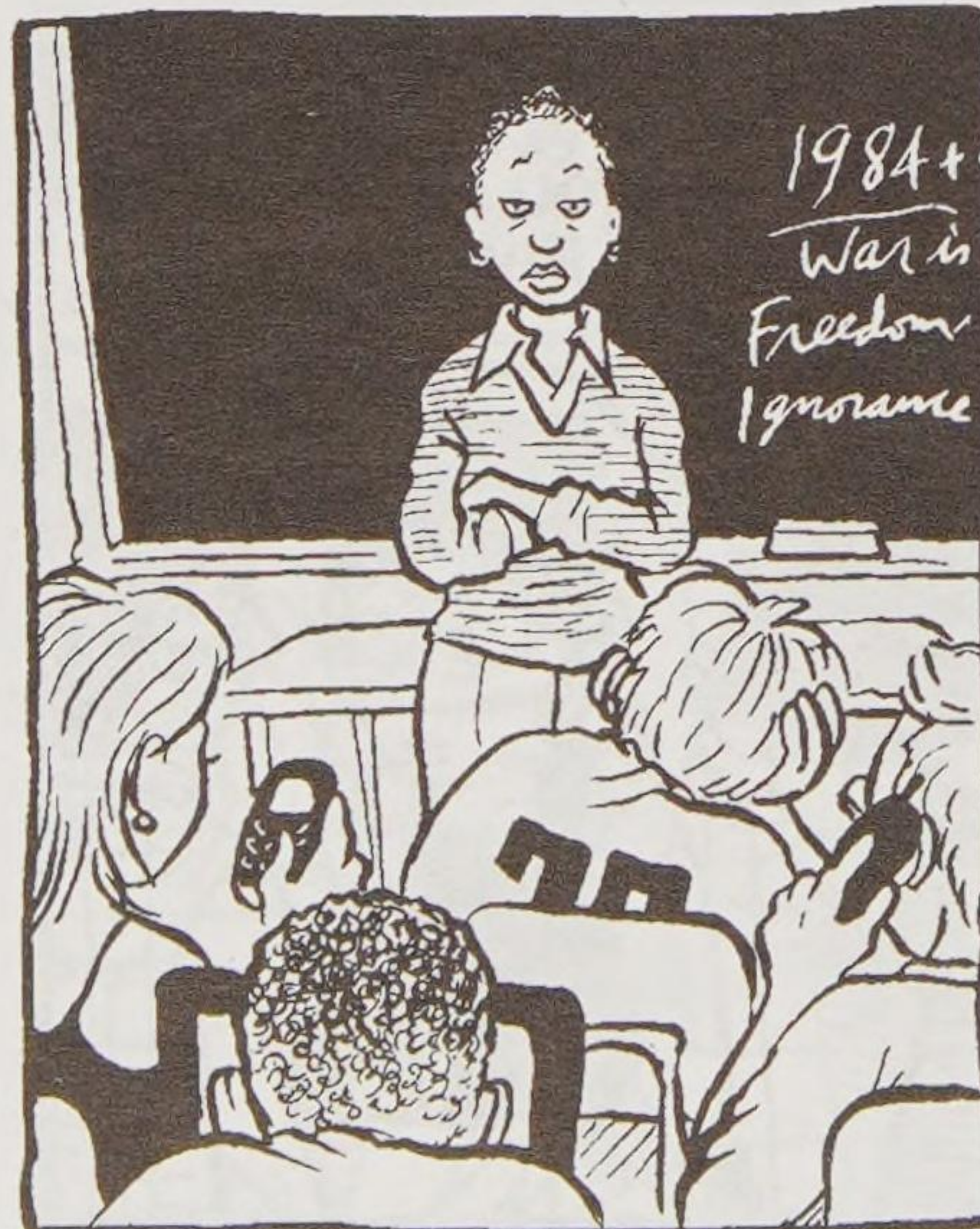
10/6

450

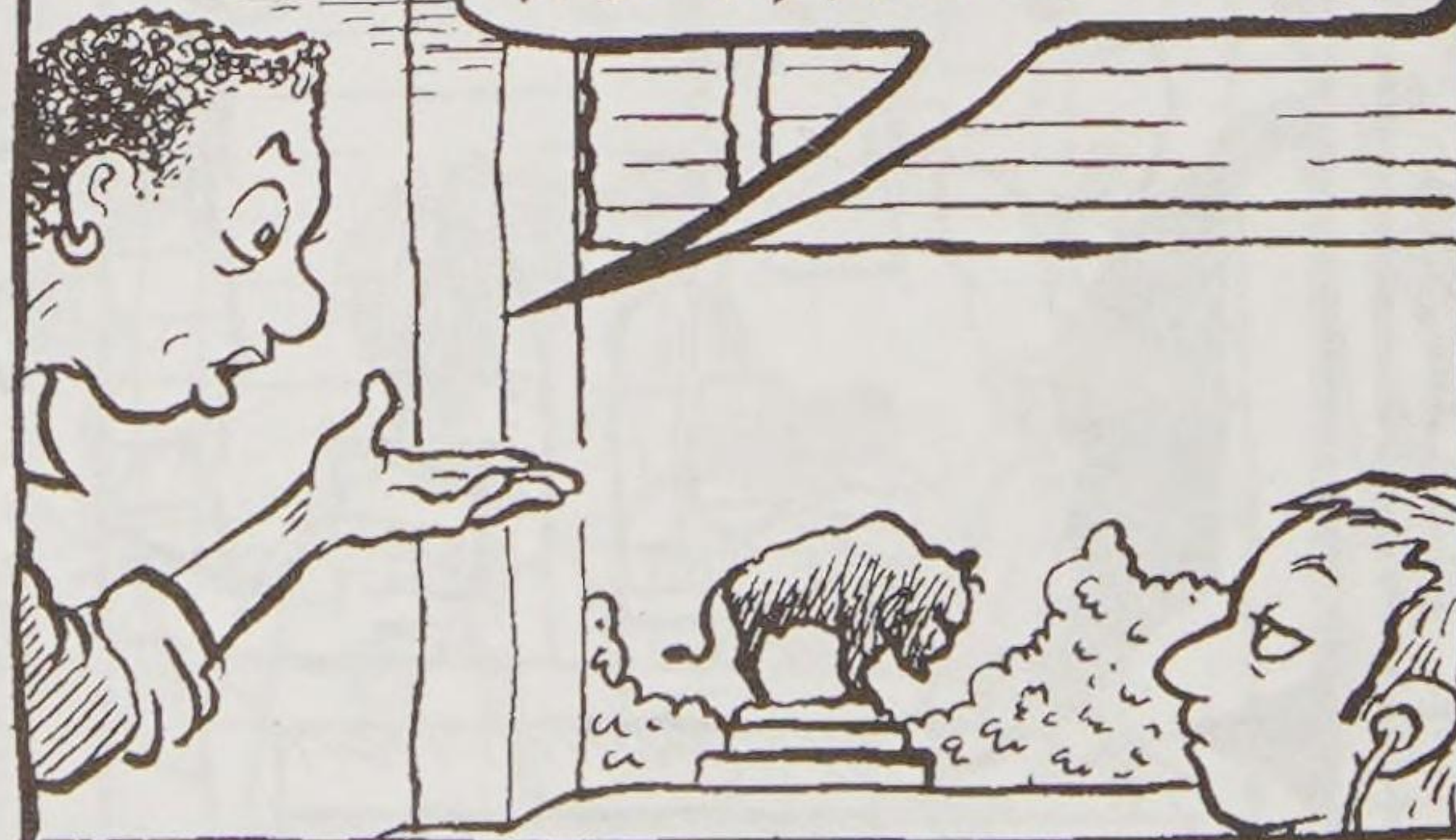
SCHOOL'S BACK IN SESSION, AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON CONSIDERING IT'S THE EVE OF AN ELECTION IN WHICH A MINUTE TIP OF THE IDEOLOGICAL BALANCE COULD USHER IN A RIGHT-WING ICE AGE.

SO, DID ANYONE NOTICE ANYTHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THE WORLD OF ORWELL'S "1984"?

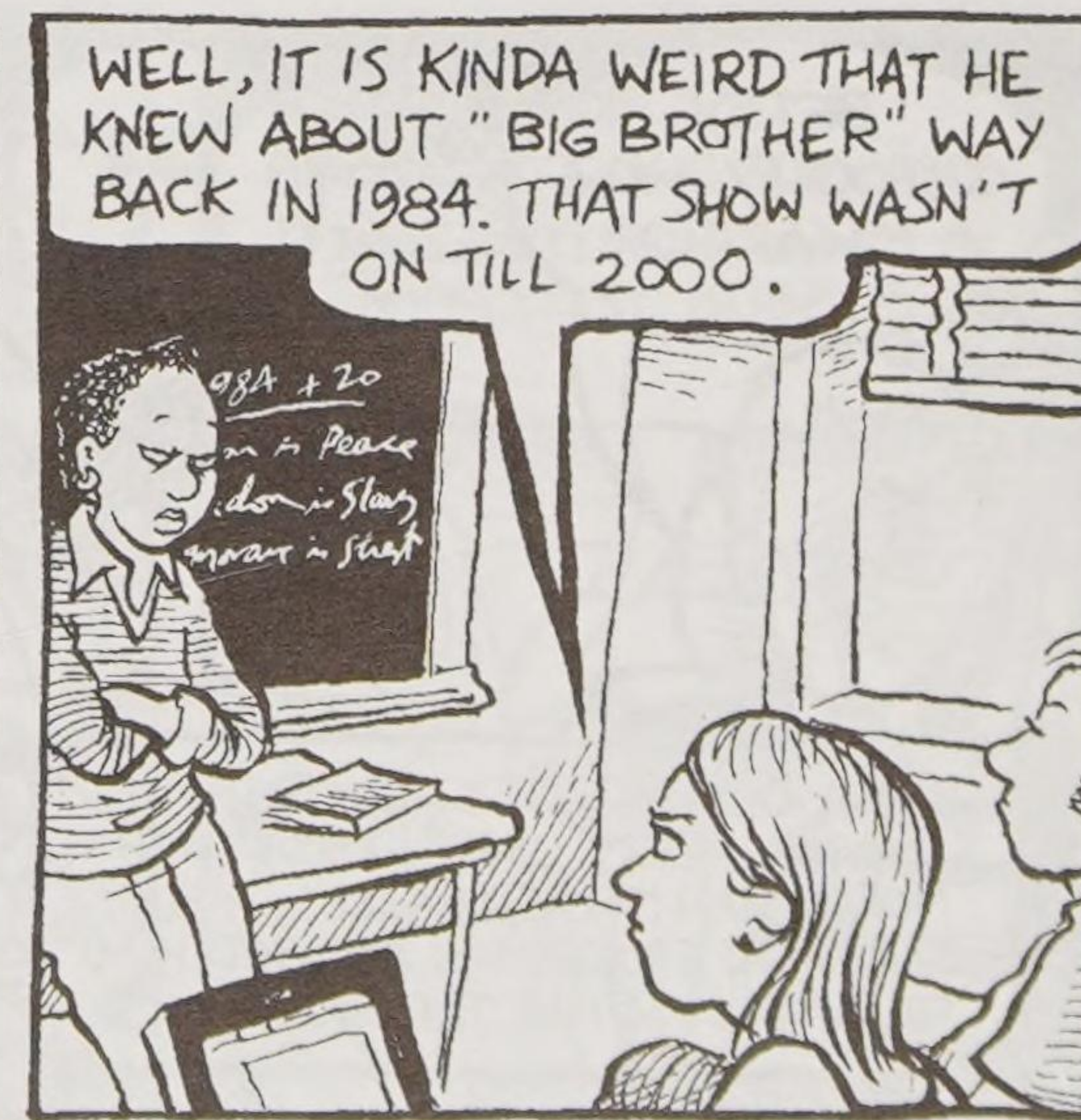
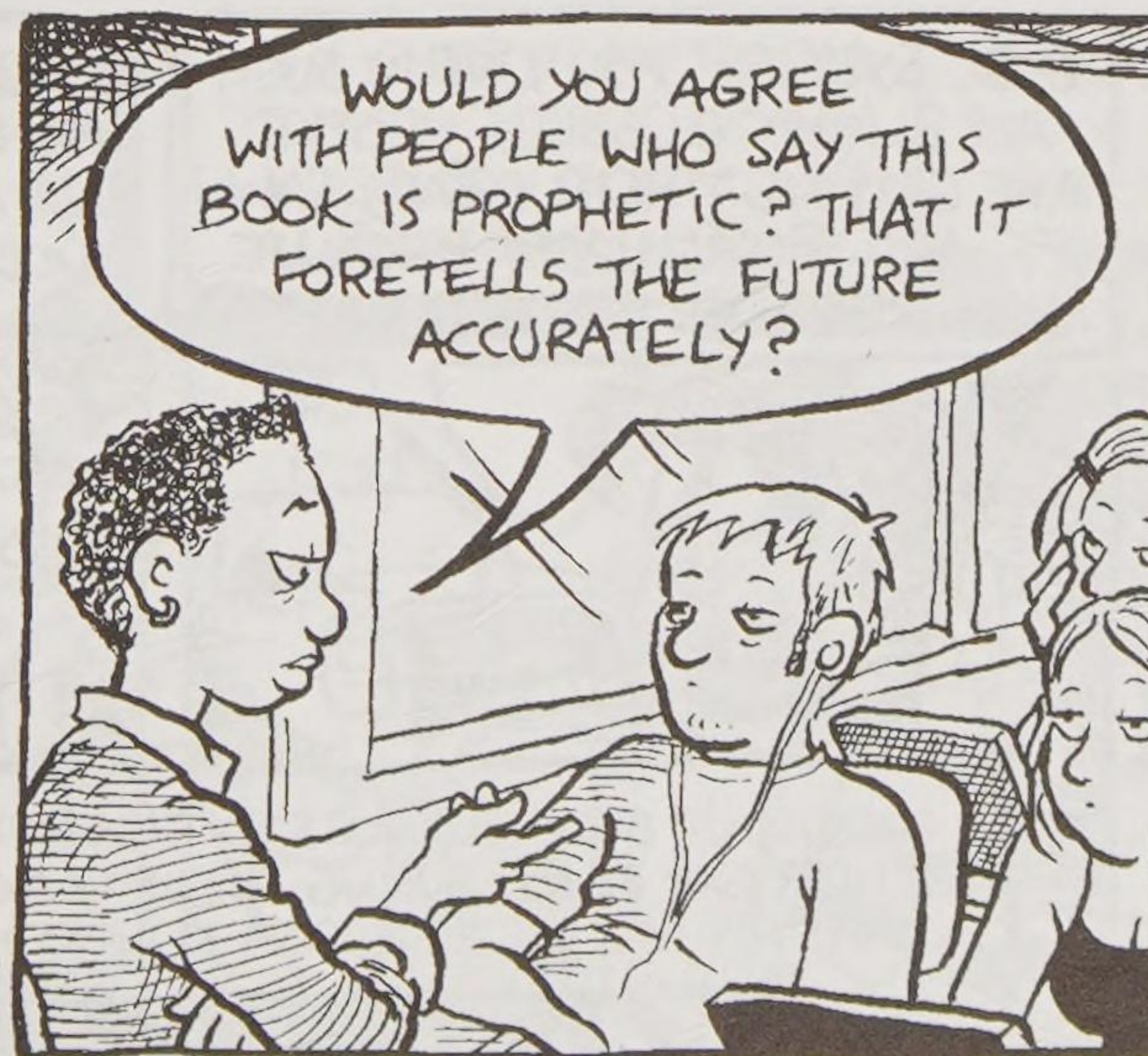
1984 + 20
War is peace.
Freedom is slavery
Ignorance is Strength



NOTHING RANG A BELL FOR ANY OF YOU? LIKE, SAY, THE DECEPTIVE AND EUPHEMISTIC USE OF LANGUAGE? THE SURVEILLANCE? THE TORTURE? THE ONGOING WAR? THE ERASURE OF HISTORY AND MEMORY?!



MEANWHILE, CLARICE IS SUPPLEMENTING THE CURRICULUM AT RAFFI'S MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH HER OWN UNIT ON THE FACTS OF LIFE.



POX POPULI

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10/20

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SORRY I'M LATE.
TRAFFIC'S INSANE.

IN SADR CITY, AMERICAN AIRSTRIKES LEFT 15 WOMEN AND 9 CHILDREN WOUNDED. OPERATIONS BY U.S. TROOPS ARE KILLING TWICE AS MANY IRAQIS AS ATTACKS BY INSURGENTS.

YOU'RE WHITE AS A SHEET!
WHAT'S WRONG?! BAD NEWS FROM DR. ROMMEL?

AT THE U.N., PRESIDENT BUSH SAID, "WE KNOW THAT DICTATORS ARE QUICK TO CHOOSE AGGRESSION, WHILE FREE NATIONS STRIVE TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES IN PEACE."

BETSY GILHOOLEY WON A MACARTHUR.

?!

IN A CAMPAIGN SPEECH TODAY, SENATOR KERRY USED WORDS WITH MORE THAN TWO SYLLABLES. A BUSH CAMPAIGN SPOKESMAN ACCUSED HIM OF "EMBOLDENING THE ENEMY."

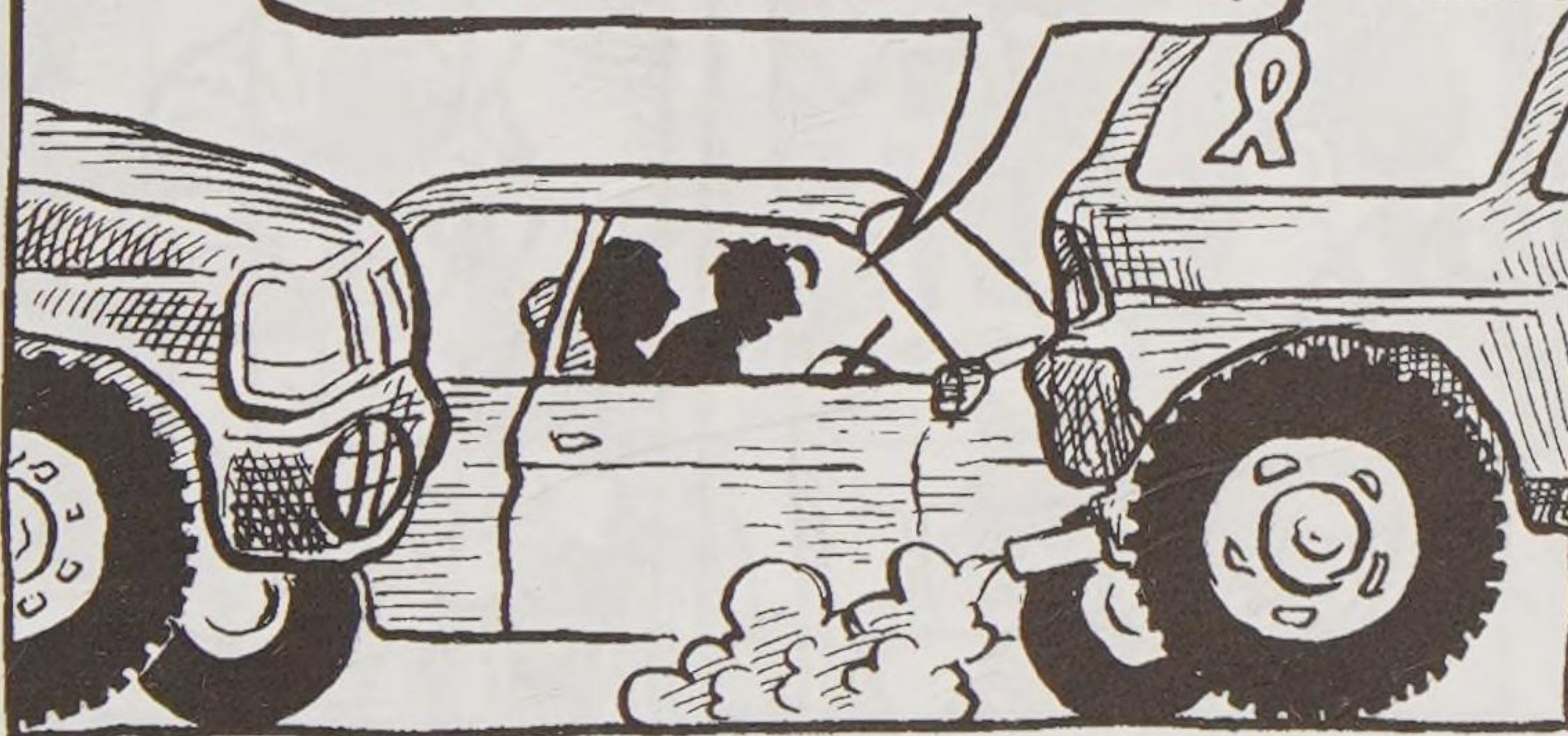
GOD, SYDNEY! YOU LIVE IN SUCH AN ELITIST BUBBLE! PEOPLE ARE GETTING THEIR HEADS SAWN OFF, AND YOU'RE UPSET BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T GET A **GRANT**?

A **GENIUS** GRANT. FOR HALF A MILLION DOLLARS.

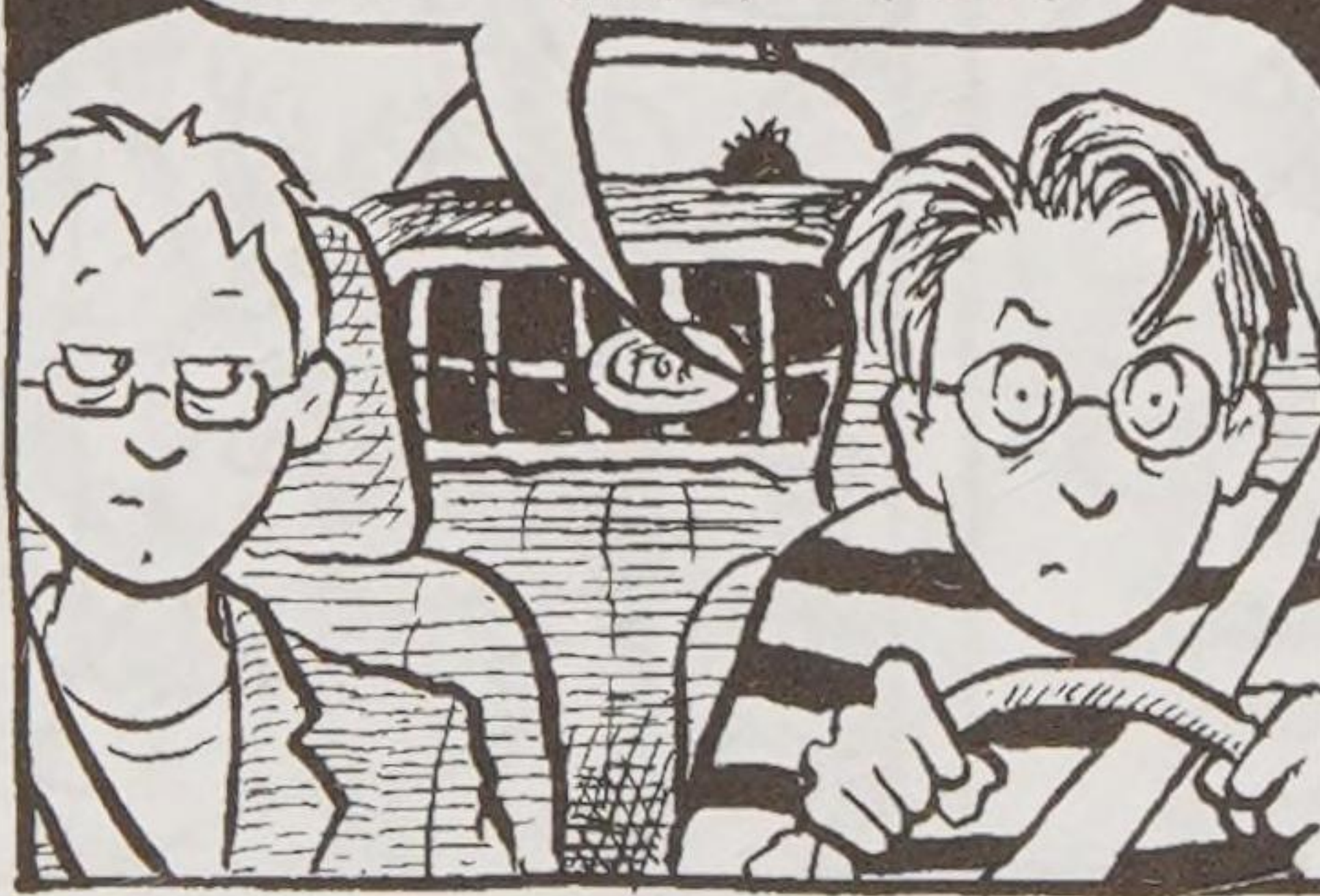
PRESIDENT BUSH CONTINUES TO CLOSE THE GENDER GAP BY COMMNCING "SECURITY MOMS" THAT HIS WAR ON TERRORISM IS WORKING.

YOU KNOW WHO SHOULD GET A FREAKING GENIUS GRANT? THE CRIMINAL MASTERMINDS BEHIND THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION.

KERRY'S FINALLY TALKING ABOUT THE MISTAKES THEY MADE IN IRAQ-- BUT THEY DIDN'T **MAKE** ANY! THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THEY PLANNED! THE MORE CHAOS, THE MORE RESISTANCE, THE MORE RISK OF TERROR THERE IS, THE MORE PEOPLE WILL VOTE FOR BUSH!



ADD THE BLOVIATING PUSBAGS AT FOX NEWS WHIPPING PEOPLE INTO A FRENZY OF NATIONALISM, AND IT'S A PERFECT LOOP. THE POWERFUL PROFIT WHILE THE POWERLESS ON BOTH SIDES ATTACK EACH OTHER.



WHAT IS THE @#*ING **MATTER** WITH PEOPLE?! WHY CAN'T THEY SEE WHAT'S GOING ON? HOW CAN THEY BE SUCH **IDIOTS?!**



OH, GREAT. LOOK AT THIS ONE. YOU'VE GOT THE **FREEDOM**, LADY, WHAT'S IT GONNA BE? SPRAWL-MART OR HOME DESPOT?

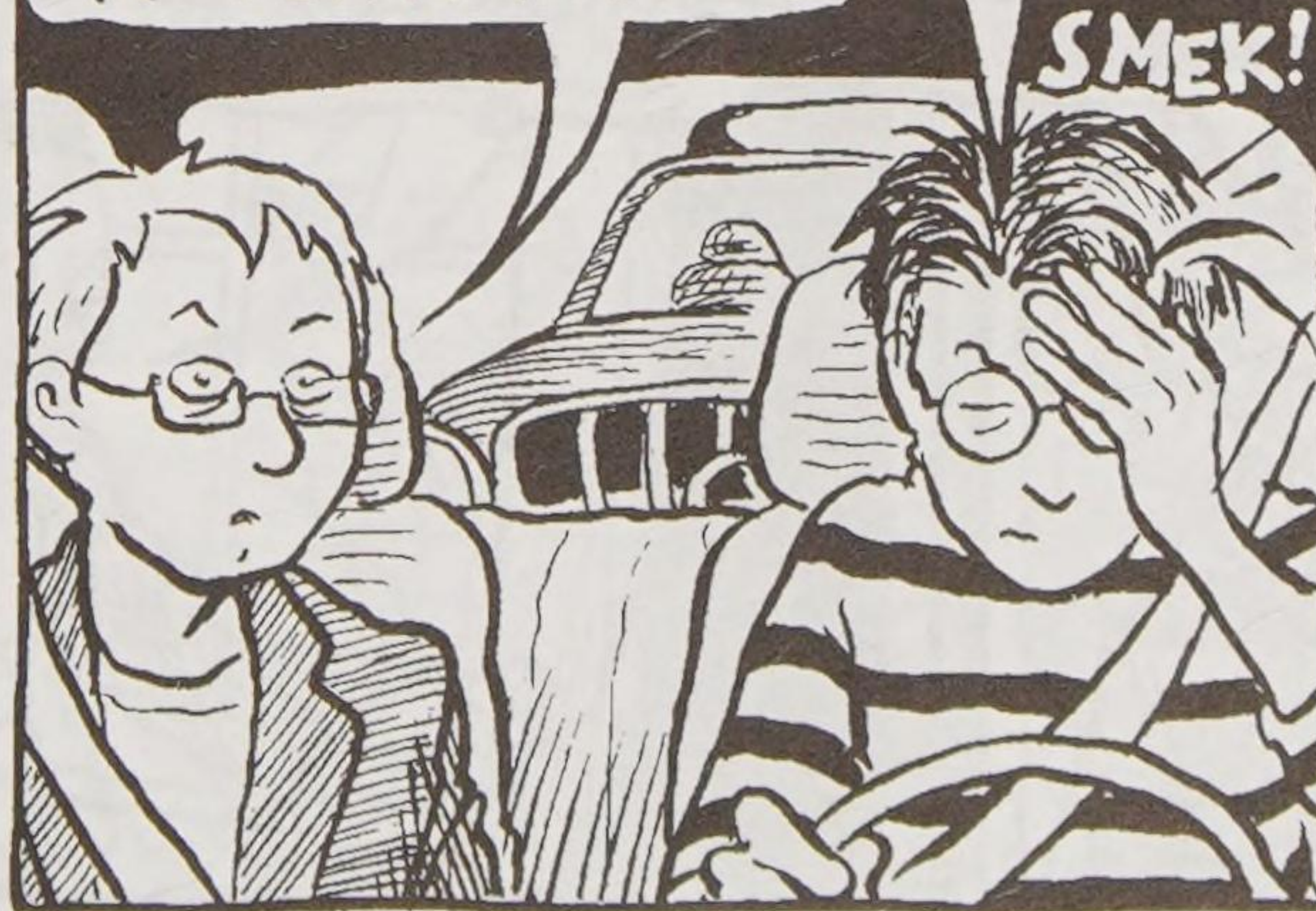
DON'T HONK! I KNOW HER!



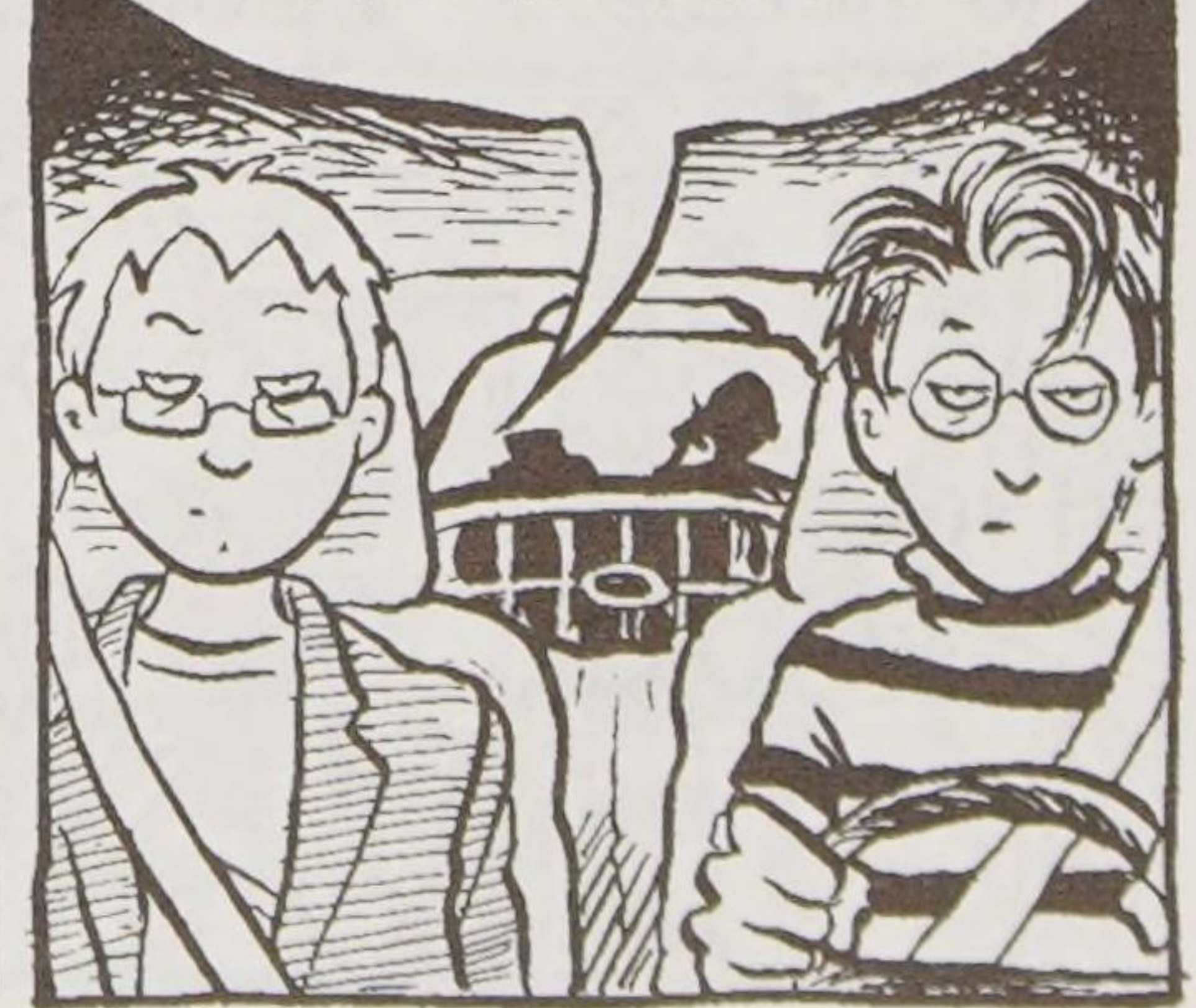
IT'S CHERYL, MY RADIATION TECH! THE WOMAN WHOSE SON GOT KILLED IN BAGHDAD IN JUNE.

GOD. I'M SORRY. WHAT A JERK.

SMEK!



NO PROBLEM. I APPRECIATE THE COMPANY. IT WAS GETTING LONELY IN MY ELITIST BUBBLE.



ABSOLUTE | VALUE |

11/3

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WHAT'S
A
LESBIAN
REPUBLICAN
TO
DO?

OF ALL THE TIMES TO COME
OUT TO YOUR FAMILY, I HAD
TO DO IT RIGHT BEFORE
THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL
DEBATE. **DAMN** THAT
JOHN KERRY!

CYNTHIA, I'M SORRY
YOUR PARENTS ARE
HAVING A MELTDOWN,
BUT IT'S HARDLY
JOHN KERRY'S FAULT.

WHEN HE CALLED
MARY CHENEY A
LESBIAN, I FELT
LIKE I'D BEEN
DROP-KICKED.



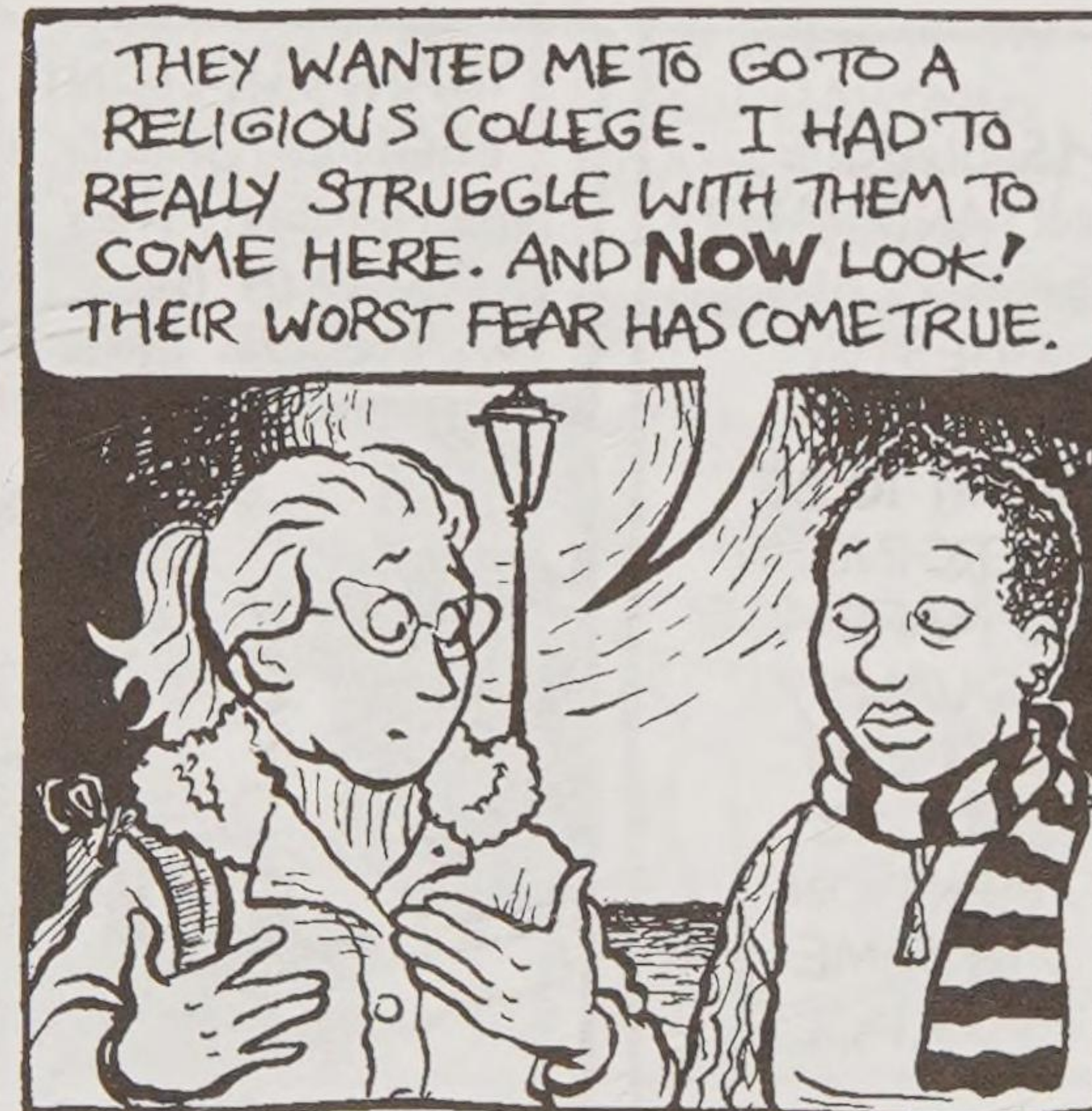
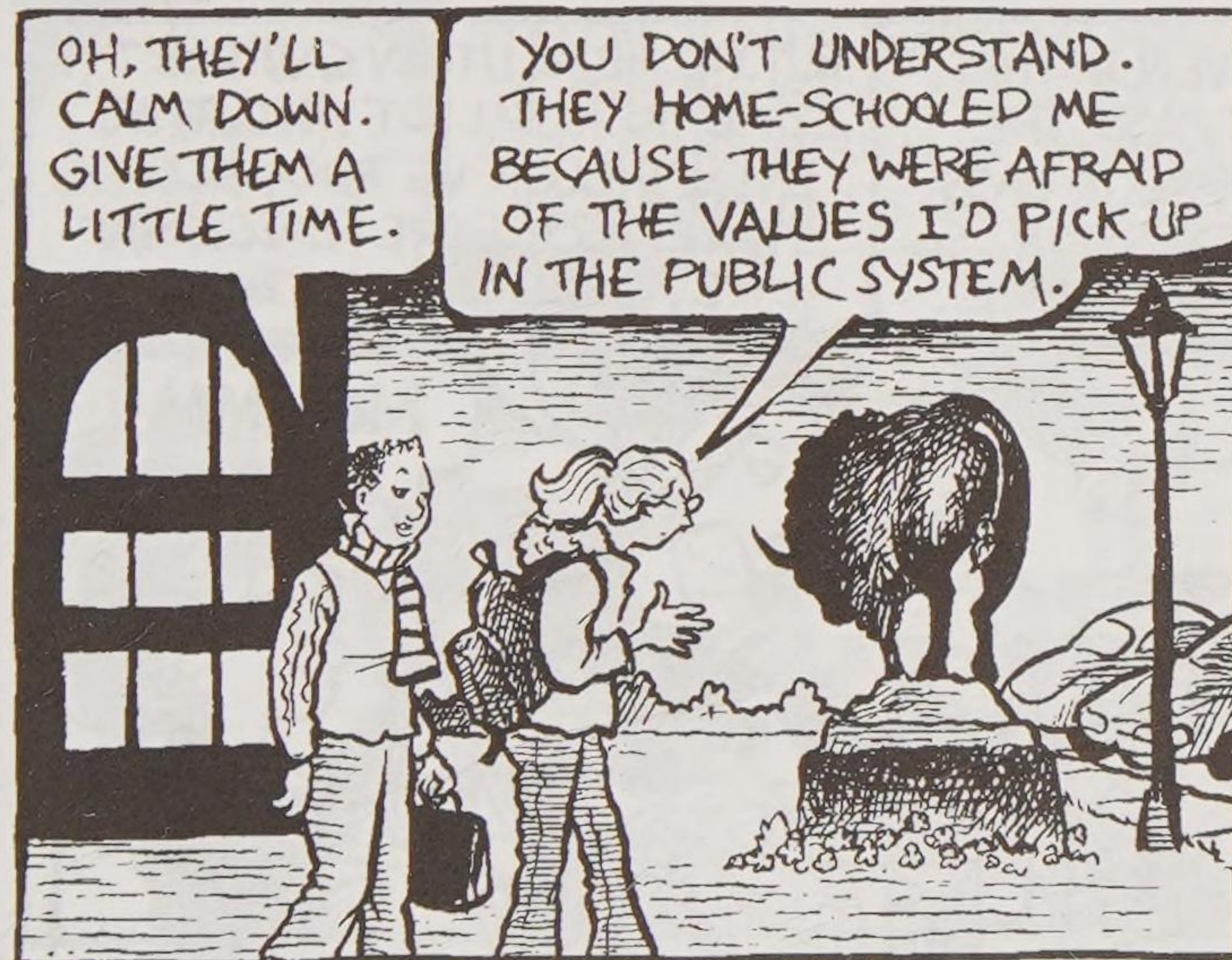
WELL, MARY CHENEY
IS A LESBIAN. AND
YOU'RE A POLITICAL
FOOTBALL. WELCOME
TO THE CLUB.

BUT IT WAS A NASTY
RHETORICAL TRICK! A
CODED MESSAGE TO
SCARE OFF BUSH'S
EVANGELICAL BASE.

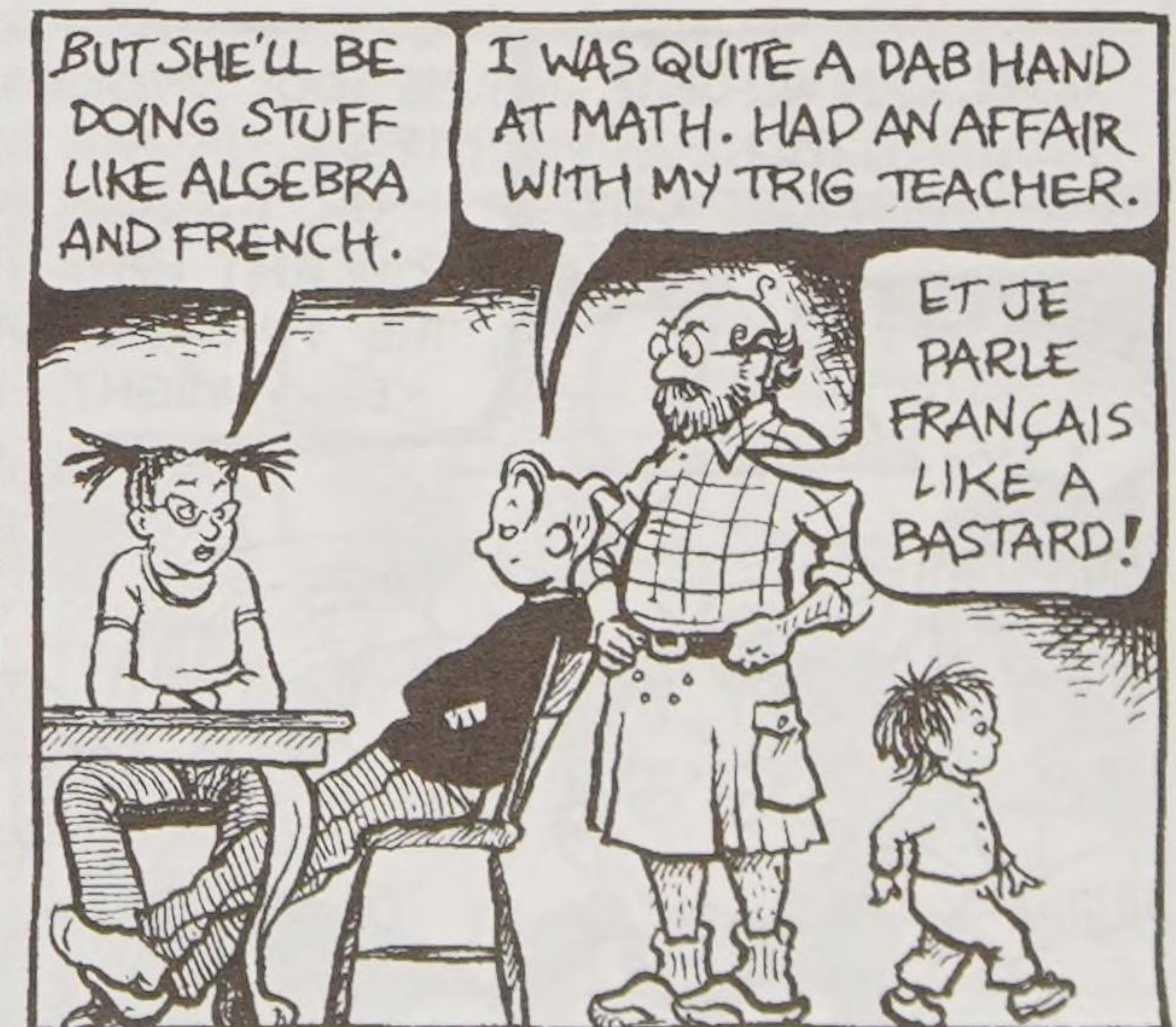
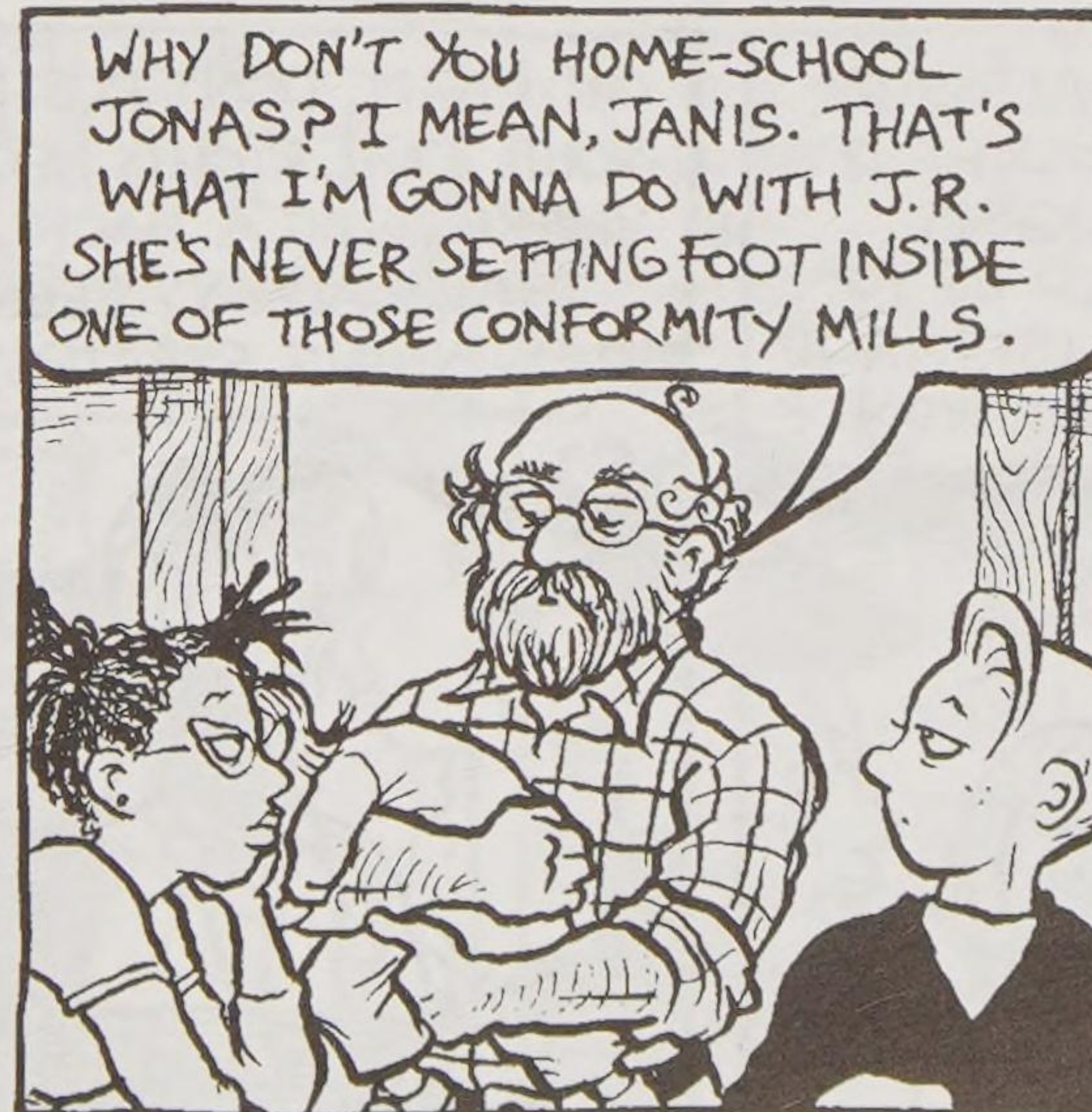
HEY, THE **CHENEYS** ARE THE RHETORICAL
CONTORTIONISTS! THEY MANAGED TO
SIMULTANEOUSLY GAY-BASH THEIR OWN
DAUGHTER **AND** BLAME IT ON KERRY!
IT MAKES MY BRAIN HURT!

THEY WERE JUST
TRYING TO PROTECT
HER. **MY** PARENTS ARE
THREATENING TO CUT
OFF MY TUITION.





MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE COLLECTIVE...



marriage engagé

11/17

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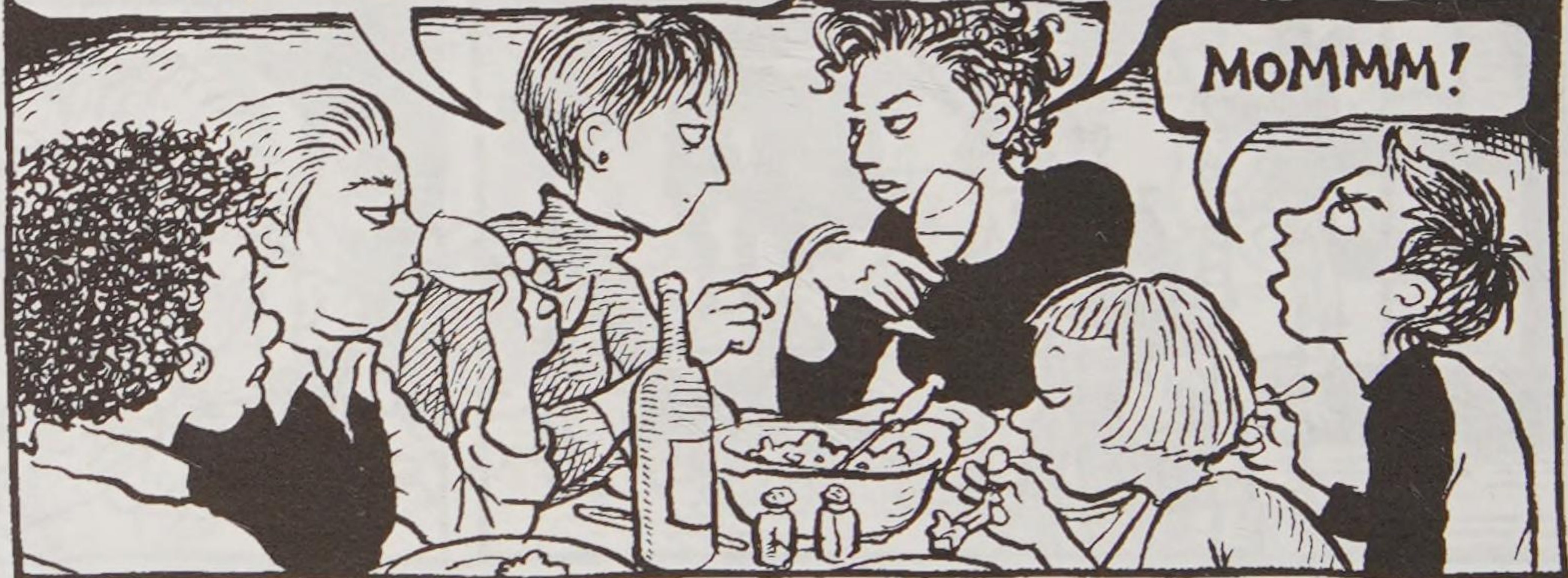
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AS CLARICE,
TONI, AND RAFFI
ENTERTAIN
GUESTS,
RIFTS
SEEM TO BE
EMERGING IN
THE MARRIAGE
EQUALITY
MOVEMENT...
NOT TO
MENTION
IN SOME
MARRIAGES.

YEAH, BUT TONI, EVEN IF THE
LEGISLATURE DOES PASS THE
AMENDMENT, THEY'D HAVE TO PASS
IT AGAIN IN THE NEXT SESSION. SO
WE'D HAVE TIME TO ORGANIZE.

BUT WE ABSOLUTELY CAN'T LET IT
COME TO A BALLOT INITIATIVE.
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE A BLUE
STATE, PEOPLE ARE FROZEN IN,
LIKE, 3000 B.C. ON THIS.

MOMMM!



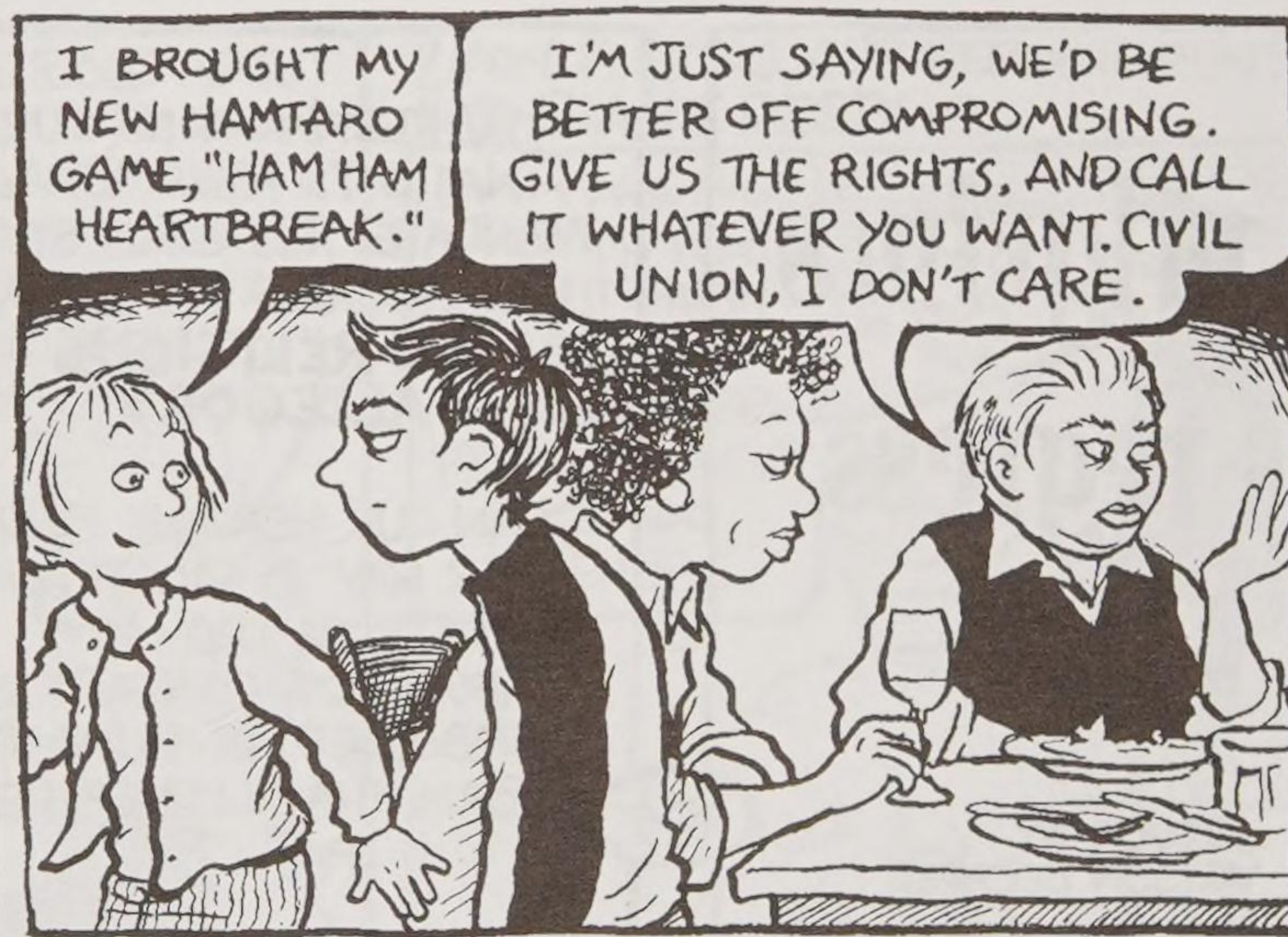
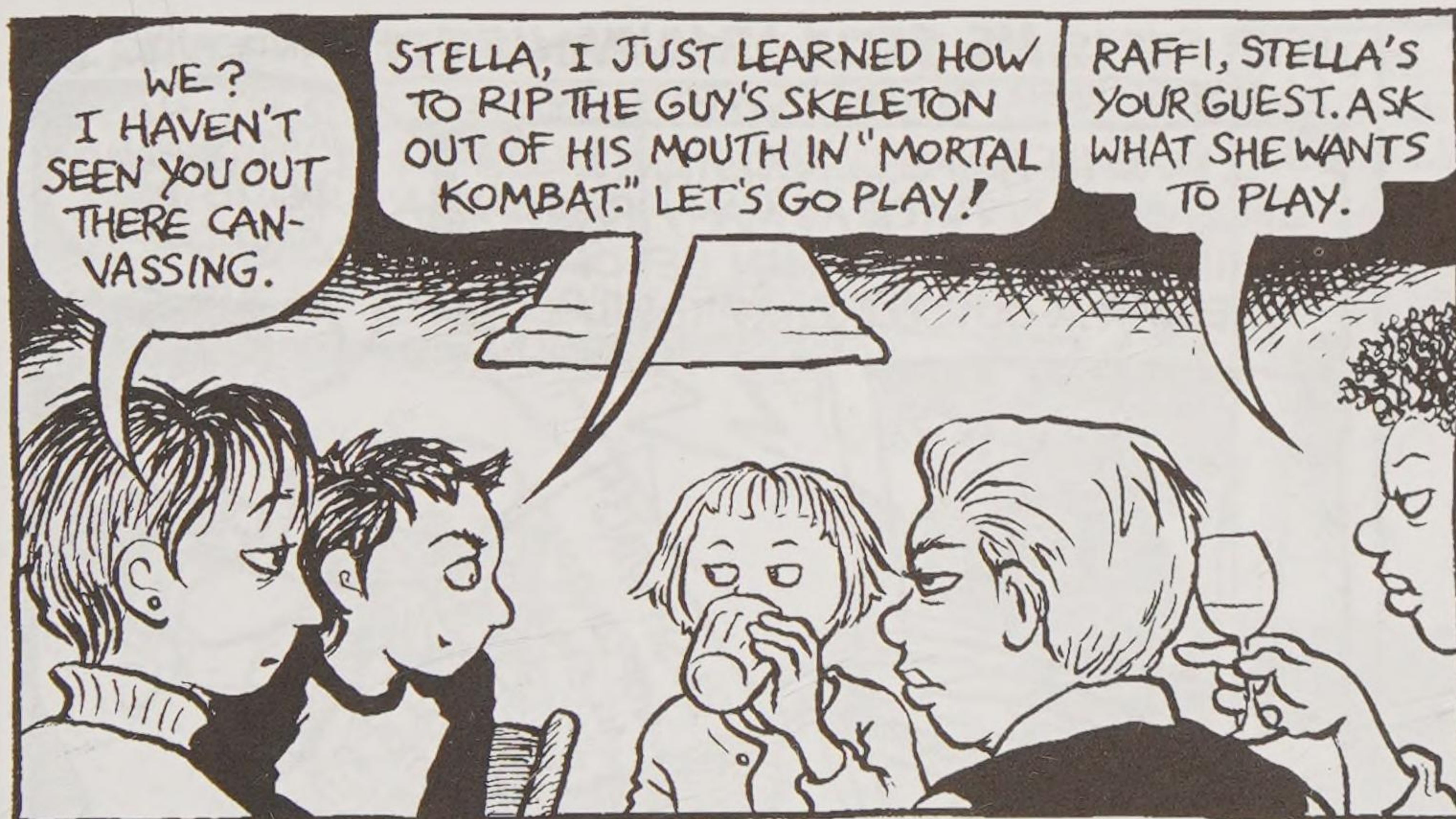
YEAH, CAN WE SKIP
THE SHOP TALK? I'M
GAY-MARRIAGED OUT.

ME TOO. ENOUGH ALREADY.
IF WE HADN'T BROUGHT IT
UP, THE REPUBLICANS
COULDN'T HAVE FED US TO
THE FUNDAMENTALISTS, AND
KERRY MIGHT HAVE WON.

OH, RIGHT. DON'T PUSH FOR
YOUR CIVIL RIGHTS BECAUSE
THERE'LL BE A BACKLASH
THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN A
WINNING STRATEGY.

CLARICE IS RIGHT.
WITH ALL THESE STATE
CONSTITUTIONAL AMEND-
MENTS, WE'RE LOSING
GROUND.





pilgrim's regress

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IN KEEPING WITH OUR NATION'S NEW MORAL MANDATE, THIS COMIC STRIP HAS CHANGED ITS FORMAT TO **RELIGIOUS ALLEGORY**.

CAN OUR HEROINE FIND HER WAY TO SALVATION DESPITE THE MANY ABSTRACT-CONCEPTS-EMBODIED-IN-HUMAN-FORM THAT LITTER HER PATH?

HERE SHE IS, **MS. SECULAR HUMANIST**, FLOUNDERING IN THE SLOUGH OF DESPOND.

...IRAQ IN FLAMES... RESISTANCE SPREADING... TWICE AS MANY IRAQI CHILDREN STARVING THAN BEFORE THE WAR... OUTSOURCING TORTURE...

WHAT SHALL I DO TO BE SAVED?



SHE SETS OUT ON HER QUEST, STOPPING TO VISIT NEIGHBOR **OBSTINATE**. THEN, IT'S ON TO NEIGHBOR **PLIABLE**.

WHY'S THE MEDIA IGNORING THIS? WHY ARE WE ALL JUST ROLLING OVER? MY **MOTHER** COULD HACK AN ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE. I **REFUSE TO ACCEPT** THE ELECTION RESULTS!

I WISH I COULD REFUSE TO ACCEPT THIS CREDIT CARD BILL. TELL ME YOU DIDN'T GIVE \$500 TO THE DNC AT THE LAST MINUTE.



IT'S UP TO US TO BREAK THROUGH THIS CULTURAL POLARIZATION. TO CONNECT WITH RED STATERS, WE NEED TO GET COMFORTABLE TALKING ABOUT OUR FAITH.



MS. LITTLE-FAITH AND MS. LOVE-LUST WEIGH IN.

YEAH, I'M SURE TELLING SOME KNUCKLE-DRAGGERS ABOUT YOUR KABBALAH MEDITATION GROUP WOULD HEAL THE RIFT RIGHT UP.

LOOK. PEOPLE VOTED REPUBLICAN BECAUSE OF THE GAY MARRIAGE THING. THEY'RE TERRIFIED OF SEX.



IF WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT REACHING OUT TO EVANGELICALS, LET'S PLANT SUBLIMINAL MESSAGES ON PORN SITES. "JESUS LOVES YOUR ORGASM."

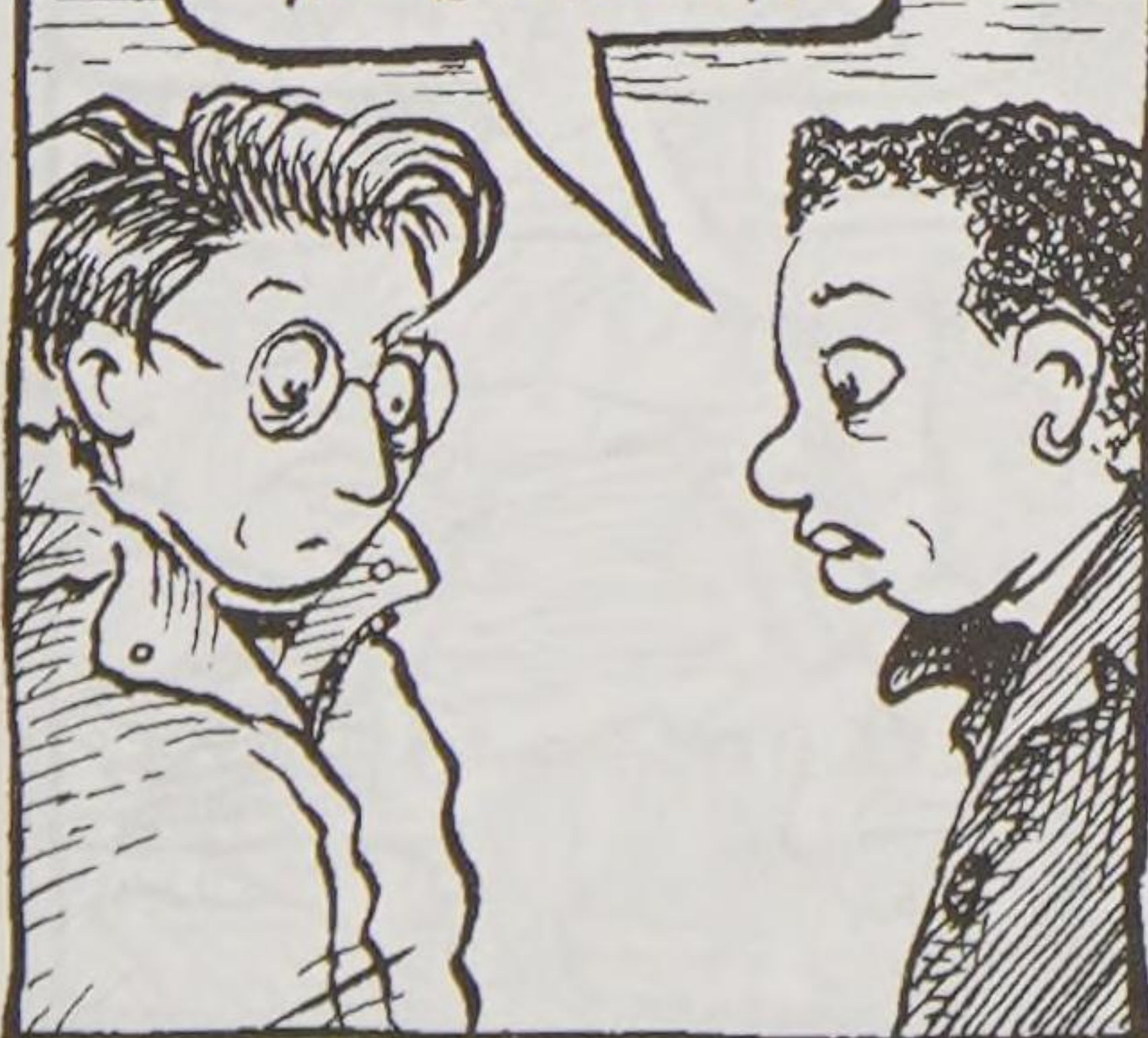


UPON FLEEING, OUR HEROINE RUNS INTO GIANT DESPAIR.

I'M MANAGING. WHEN MY PANIC ABOUT BUSH PROVOKING A NUCLEAR TERRORIST ATTACK GETS TOO INTENSE...



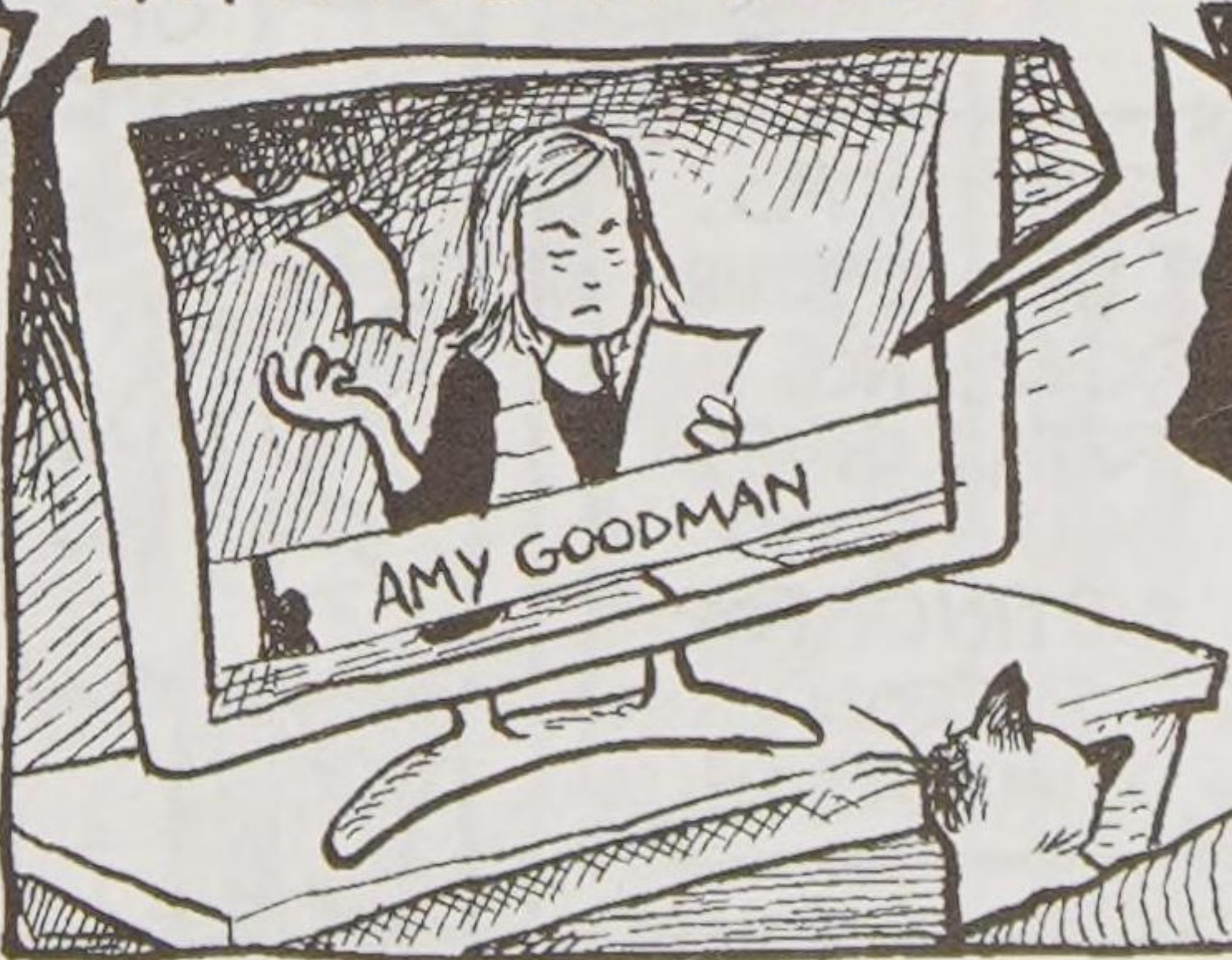
...I SWITCH TO MY FEAR OF BEING ROUNDED UP AND SHIPPED TO A GULAG FOR INTELLECTUALS. IN KENTUCKY.



ONWARD SHE TREKS, BUT BEFORE REACHING HER FINAL GOAL, OUR PILGRIM MUST PASS THROUGH THE TEMPTATIONS OF VANITY FAIR.

ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE SHE'LL HANG HERE FOR A WHILE.

...CIA AND STATE DEPARTMENT PURGING DISSIDENTS... VOTING IRREGULARITIES... WAR CRIMES... IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM...



CAN I HAVE A SWIG OF THAT?

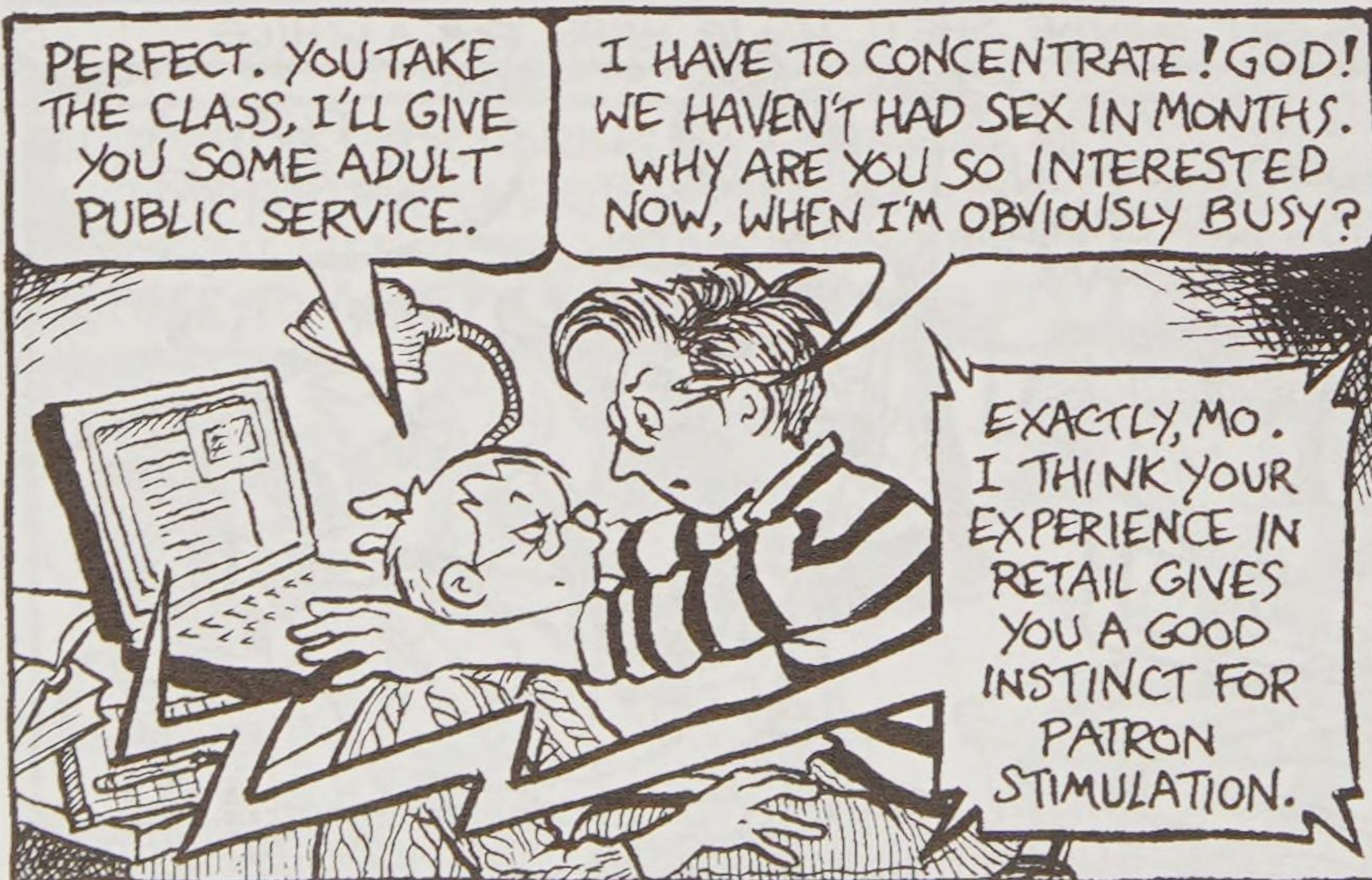
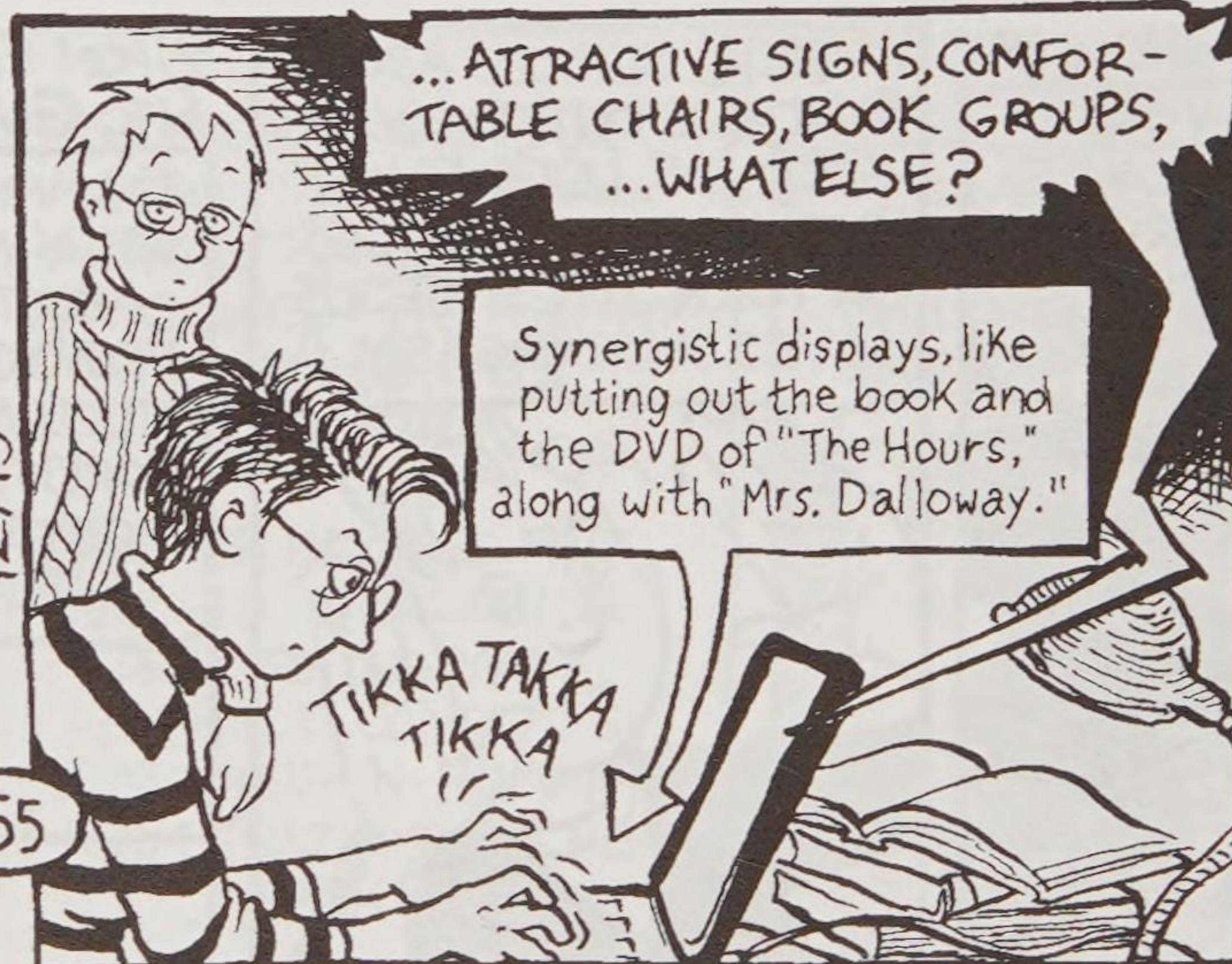
CLINK

distance learning

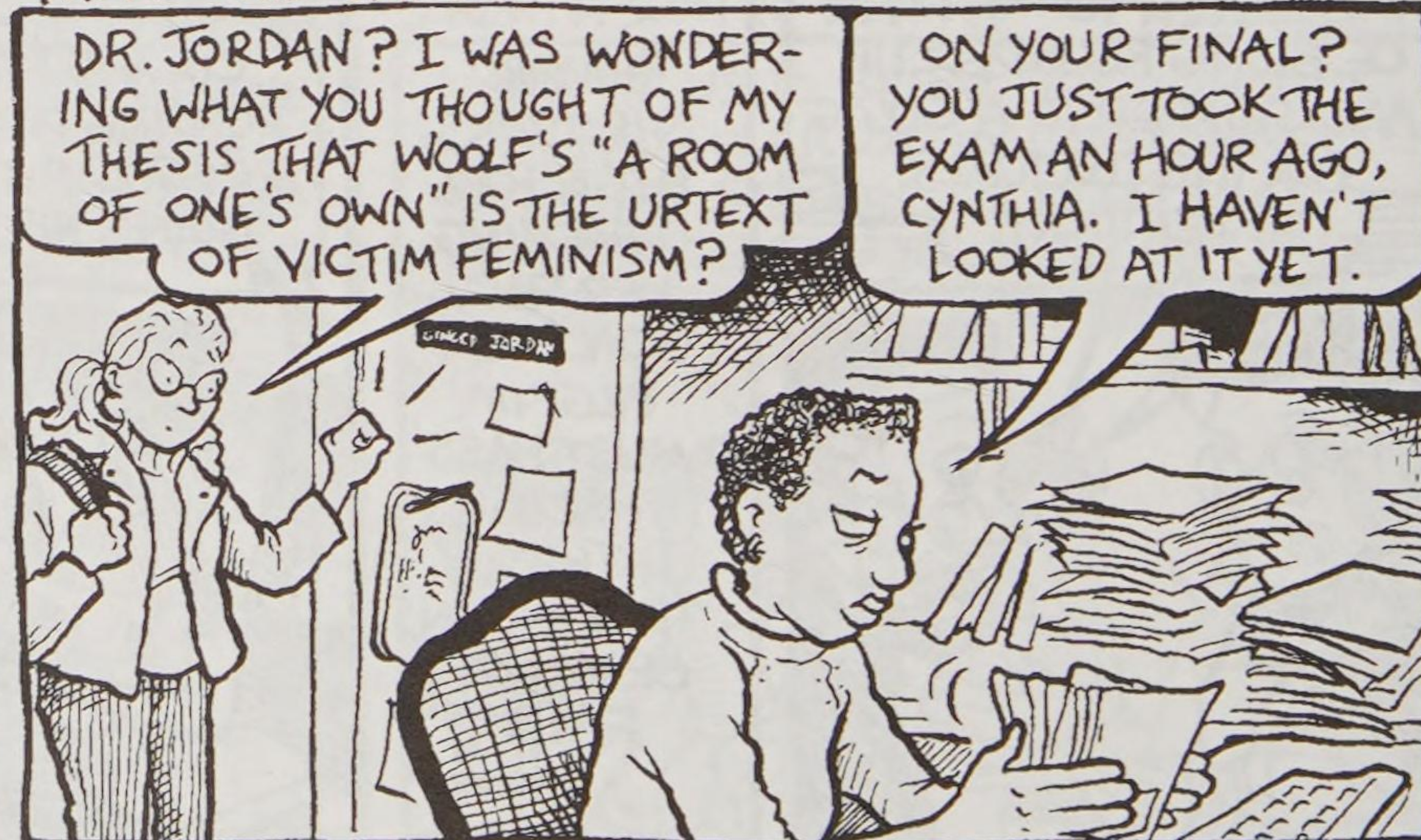
12/15

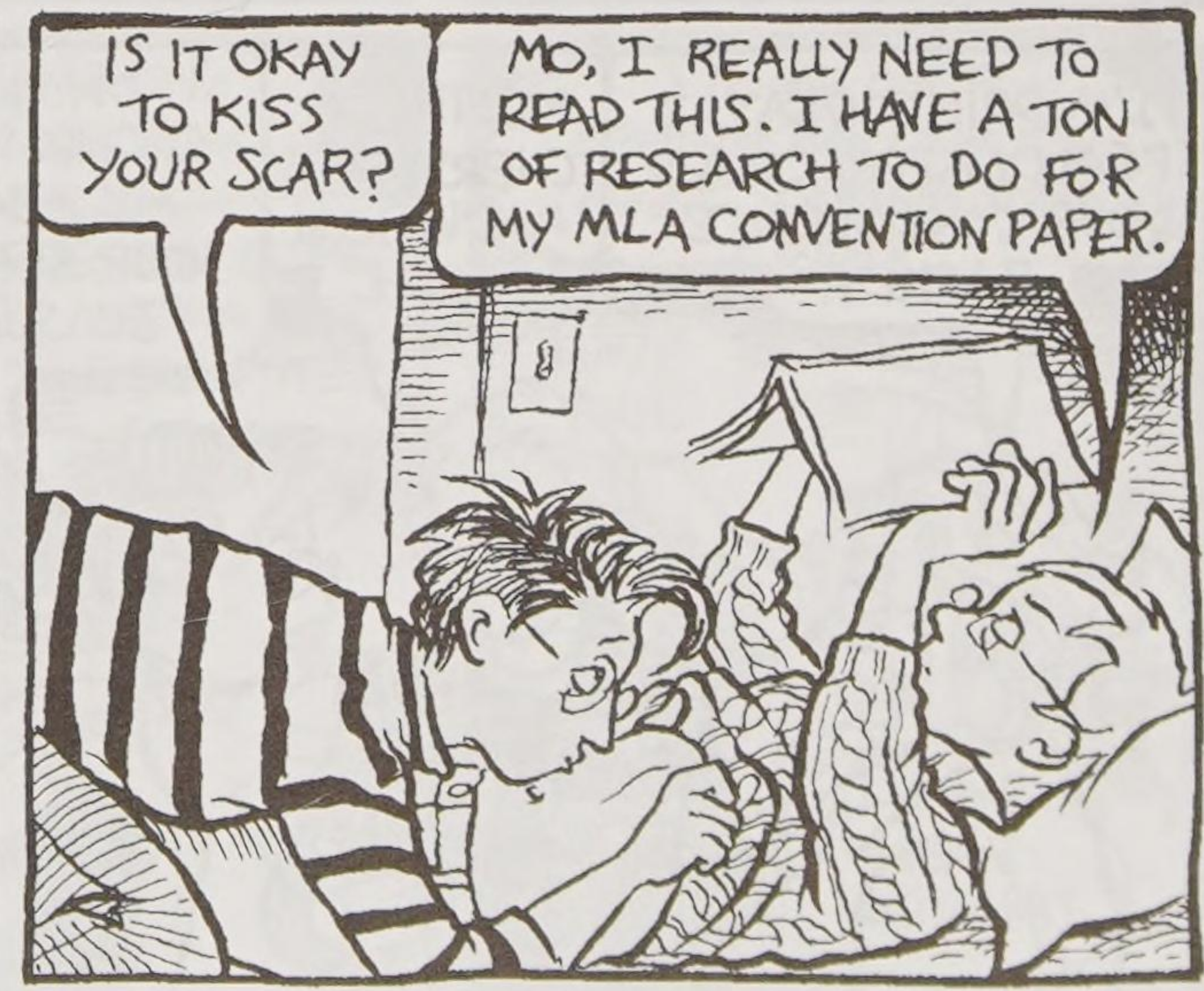
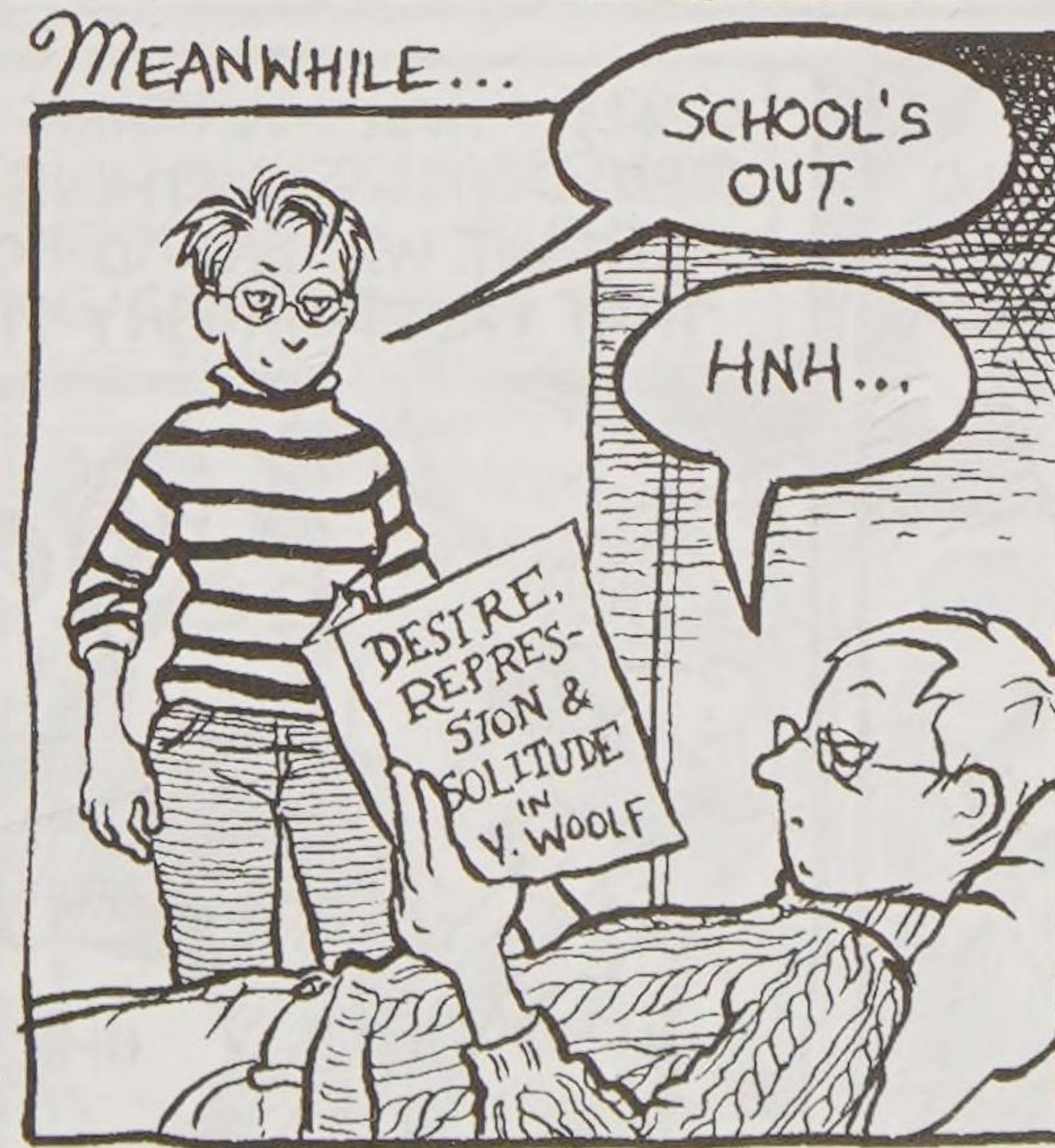
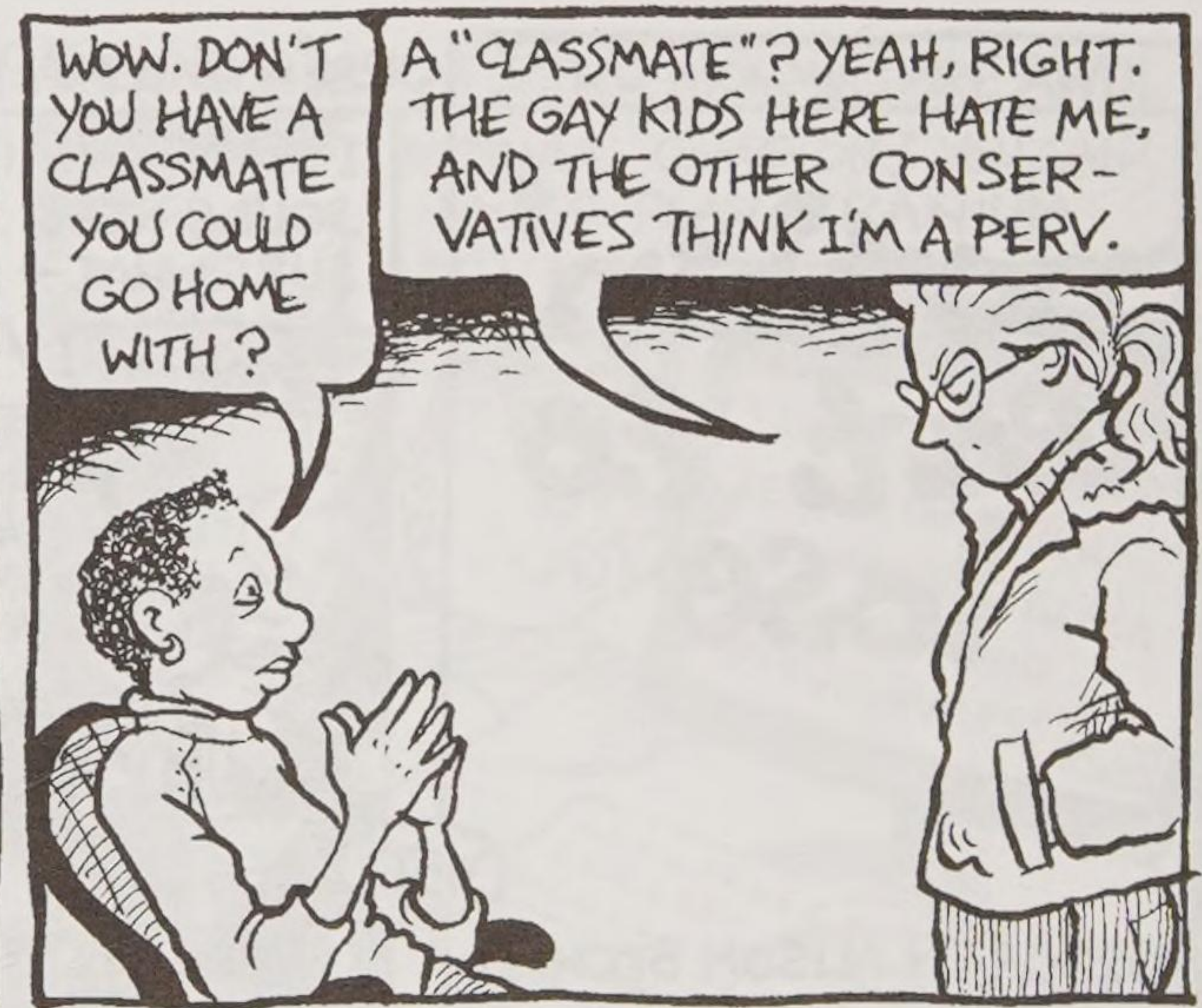
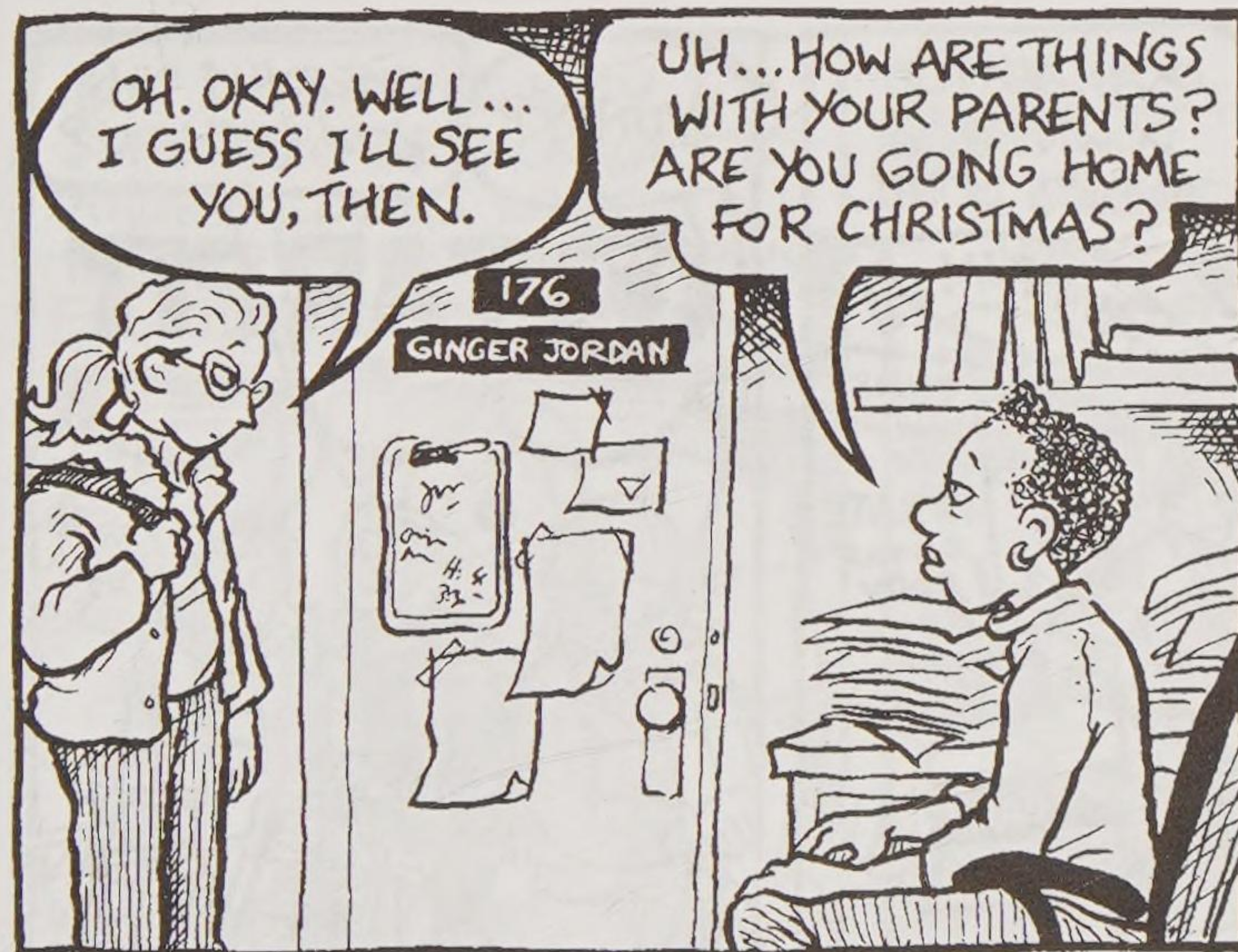
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MEANWHILE, AT BUFFALO LAKE STATE...





nothin'
left to
lose

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OH, THE MALL. AMERICA'S AORTA.

I MADE A HAIKU! "WANDERING, DAMNED
SOULS NEED SOMETHING, BUT AREN'T
SURE WHAT - NEXT STOP, CINNABON."

OKAY, SETTLE
DOWN. I'M
ALMOST DONE.

12/29

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SYDNEY?

CHERYL! UH...
HOW ARE YOU?

TARPIT



I'M DOING OKAY. I
REALLY APPRECIATED
YOUR CONDOLENCE
BASKET.

MO, THIS IS
CHERYL, MY
RADIATION
TECH.

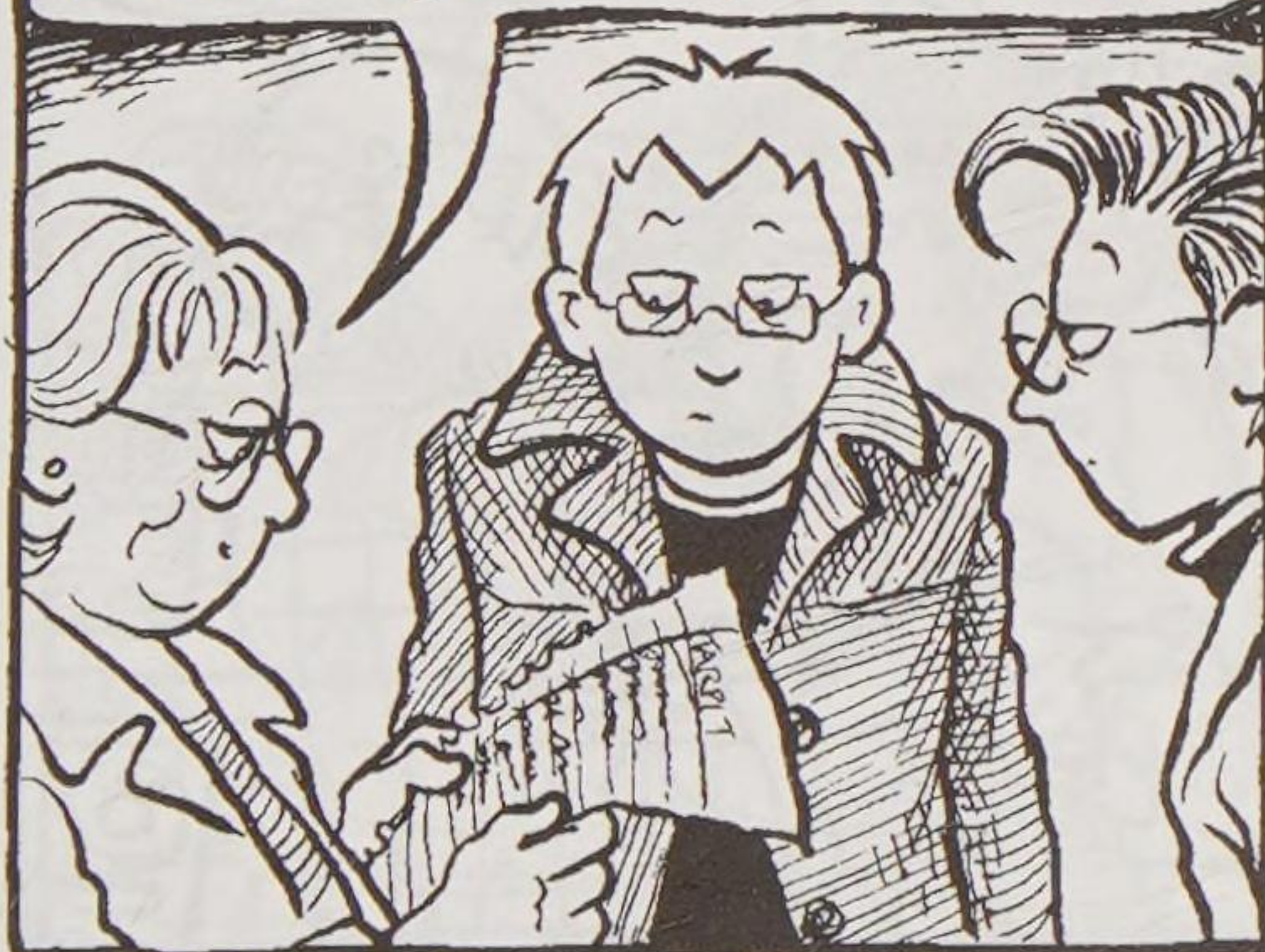
OH. HI.
SYDNEY TOLD
ME ABOUT
YOUR SON. I'M
SO SORRY.

WELL, IT HELPS KNOWING HE
DIED DOING SOMETHING SO
IMPORTANT. WE TEND TO FORGET
THAT FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.

UHH...

YOU'RE SO
RIGHT.

BUT I'M STAYING BUSY. I'M SENDING CARE PACKAGES TO OTHER SOLDIERS. LOOK AT ALL THIS STUFF THEY NEED! TOYS FOR KIDS, SOCKS, BATTERIES..



SHORTLY...



I GUESS FREEDOM HAS AN A.P.R. OF 18.99%

SHUT UP AND GO FIND THE BEEF JERKY.

MEANWHILE, RAF'S TWO MOMMIES ARE AWOL.



MEEMA, COME ON! YOU SAID YOU'D PLAY CRANIUM WITH US.

HACKEDVOTE.ORG
• MEDIA LOCKDOWN?
• E-VOTE TAMPERING
• VOTING WHILE BLACK
• RAMPANT OHIO
"IRREGULARITIES" MORE

I'LL COME WHEN MOMMY GETS OFF THE PHONE.



HEY, WE CAN'T ROLL OVER NOW. IF WE GIVE AN INCH ON MARRIAGE, NEXT THING YOU KNOW THEY'LL BE SHOVING CREATIONISM AND "ABSTINENCE" DOWN OUR THROATS!



MOM, COME ON!

HANG ON, GLORIA —

SWEETIE, I'LL COME WHEN MEEMA GETS OFF THE COMPUTER.



I'LL BE OVER BEHIND THE QUICKIE MART SCORING SOME CRANK.

HAVE FUN.

WEAR YOUR HAT.





1/12

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IN THE
SEASON OF
GREATEST
DARKNESS,
OUR QUASI-
INTENTIONAL
FAMILY ADMITS
A STRAY
EVANGELICAL
TO THEIR
MULTI-
PURPOSE
FESTIVAL OF
LIGHTS.

HMM. YOUR LITTLE RED
STATUE HAS A CERTAIN
UNLICKED, WET-BEHIND-
THE-EARS CHARM,
GINGER.

LEAVE MY
STUDENT ALONE.
I WANT **NO**
TROUBLE,
UNDERSTAND?

RIGHT. IF SHE DOESN'T
LIKE MY TOFU PIEROGIES,
I GOT HER SOME
CHEESEBURGER HOT
POCKETS.



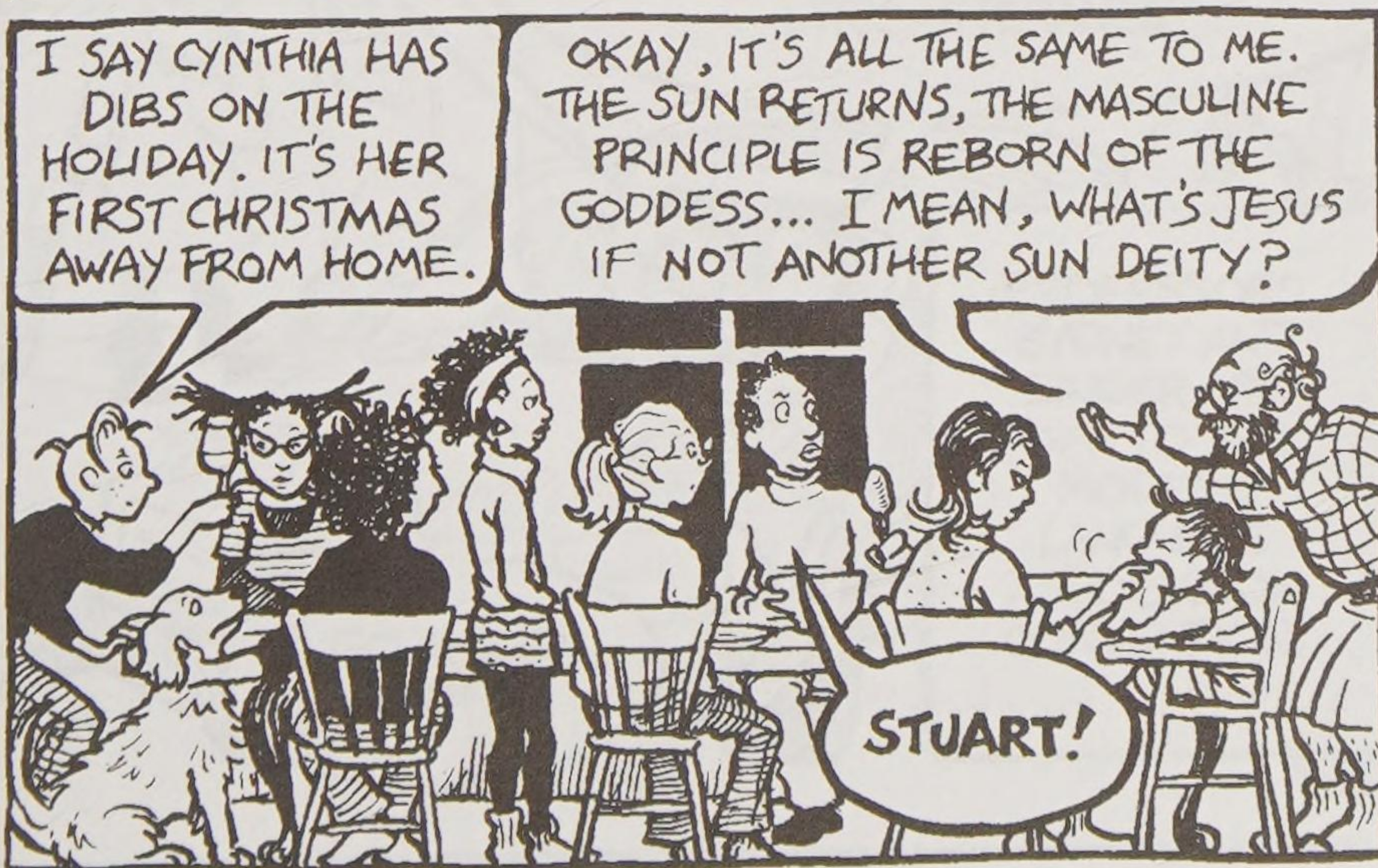
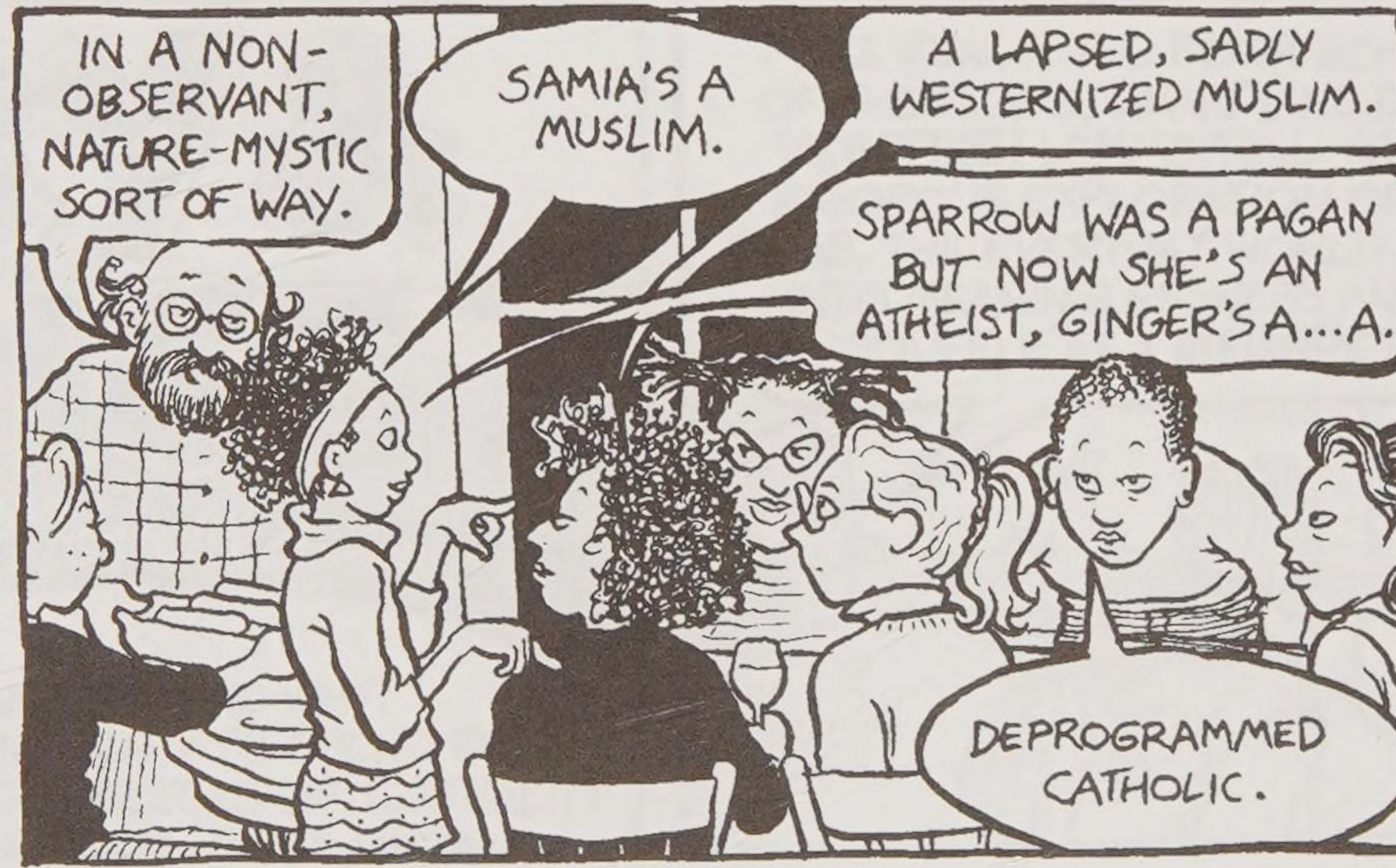
OKAY. THESE MEGACHURCHES TELL PEOPLE TO
VOTE AGAINST ABORTION AND GAY MARRIAGE
BECAUSE THEY'RE **IMMORAL**. AND THEN THEY
ELECT CONSERVATIVES WHO DEFUND CHILD-
CARE AND HOUSING. ISN'T THAT HYPOCRITICAL?

NO! SOCIAL
PROGRAMS ARE
IMMORAL TOO, 'CUZ
THEY MAKE PEOPLE
DEPENDENT!

ENOUGH
SMALL TALK,
LET'S EAT!

UH... I'D LIKE IT IF WE COULD
JUST TAKE A MINUTE AND THINK
ABOUT OUR INTERDEPENDENCE
WITH NATURE AS WE CELE-
BRATE THE SOLSTICE.





THEORY & PRACTICE

A graphic Novella

I AM SO DREADING THIS.

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY. WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO SPEND FOUR DAYS VISIONING THEORIES OF TEXTUALITY IN TRANSNATIONAL, POST-HUMAN LYRIC UTTERANCE?

GO AHEAD, SCOFF.

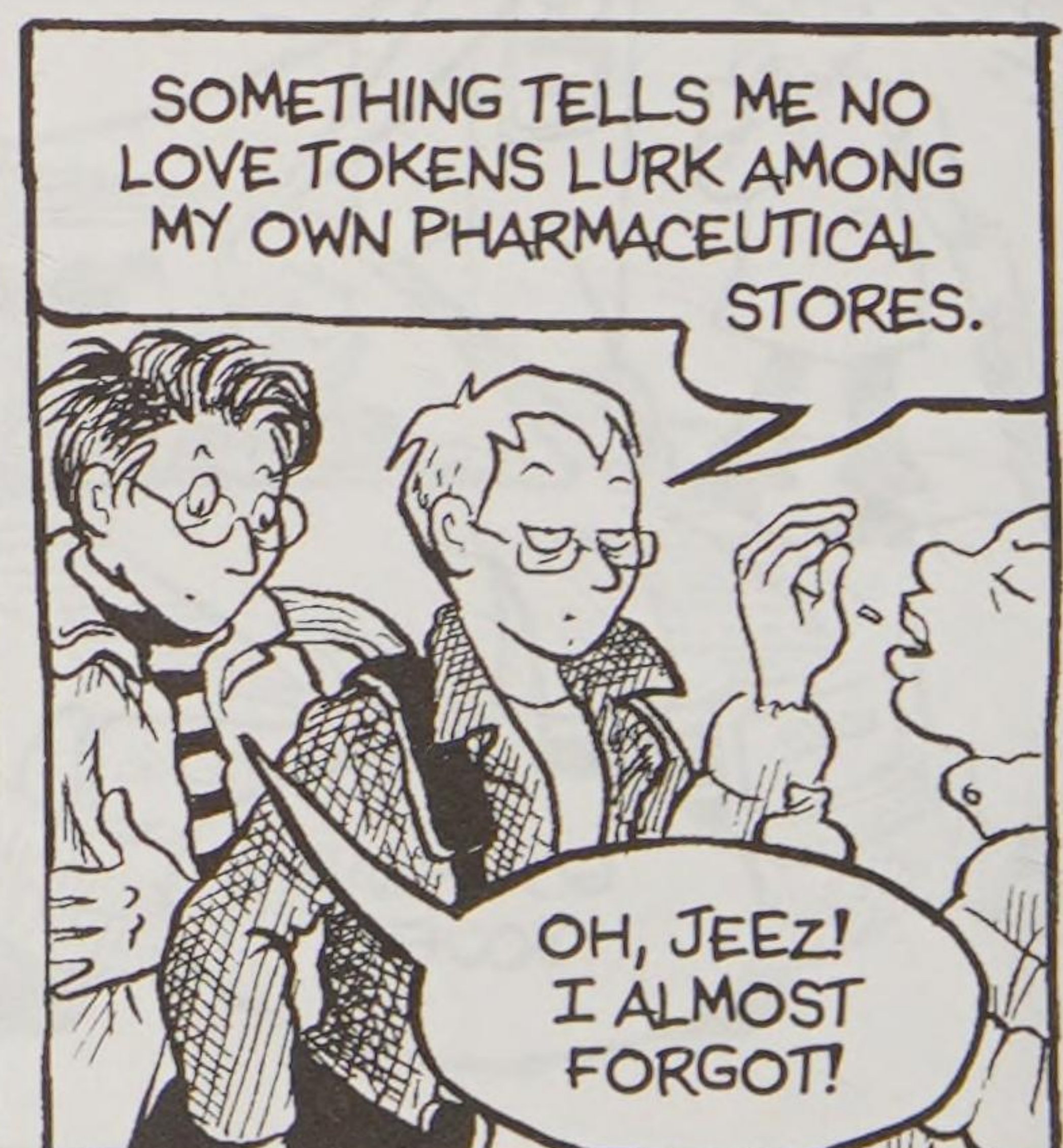
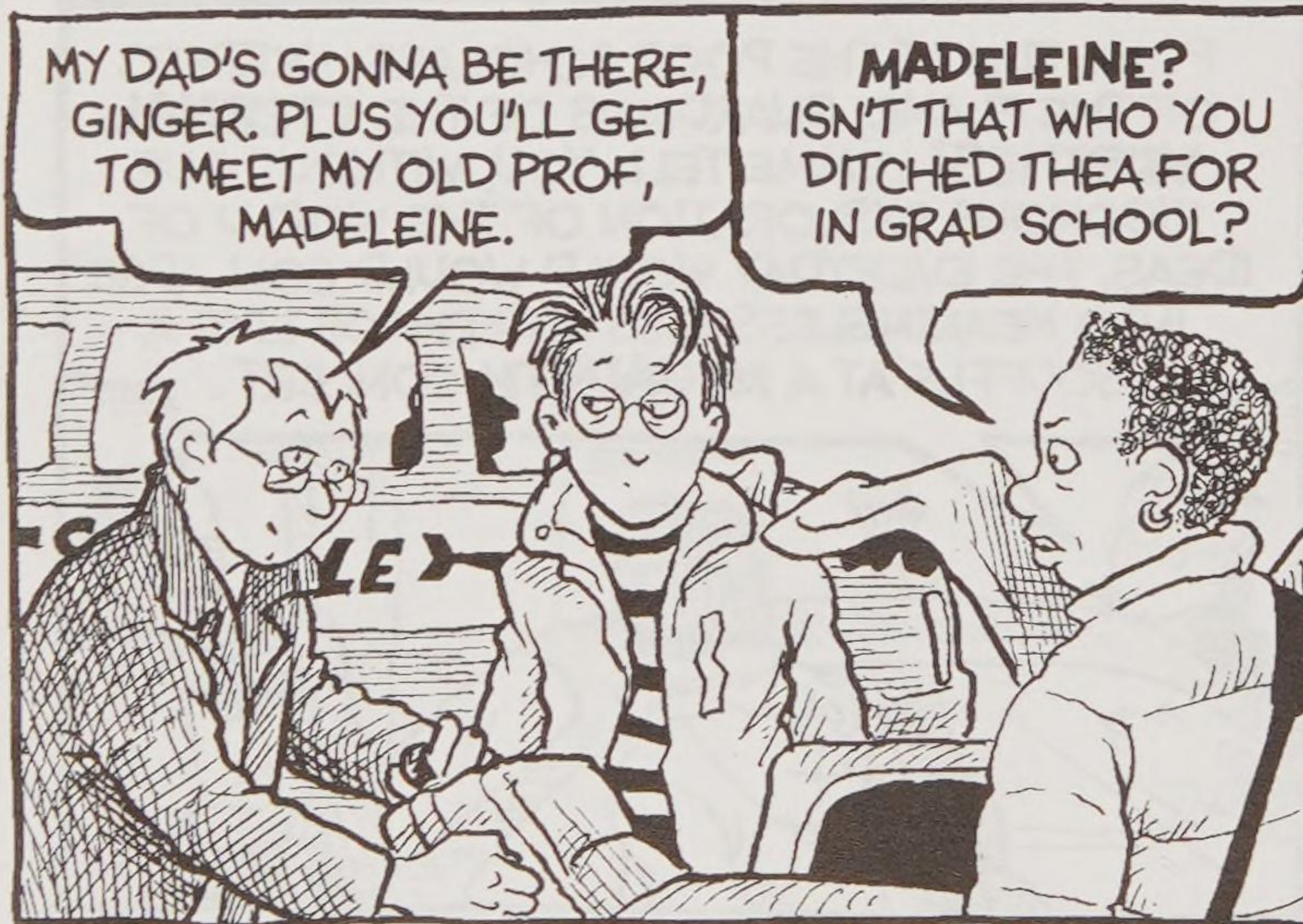
PROFESSORS SYDNEY AND GINGER ARE OFF TO THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION.

POKE FUN AT THE POOR SCHOLARS, KEEPERS OF THE FLAME, GUARDIANS OF THE **ETERNAL VERITIES!** LEMME TELL YOU, WITHOUT OUR RIGOROUS EXPLORATION OF THE WORLD OF IDEAS, THE EVERYDAY WORLD WOULD COLLAPSE INTO MEANINGLESSNESS AND CHAOS LIKE A SOUFFLE' AT A **MEGADETH** CONCERT.



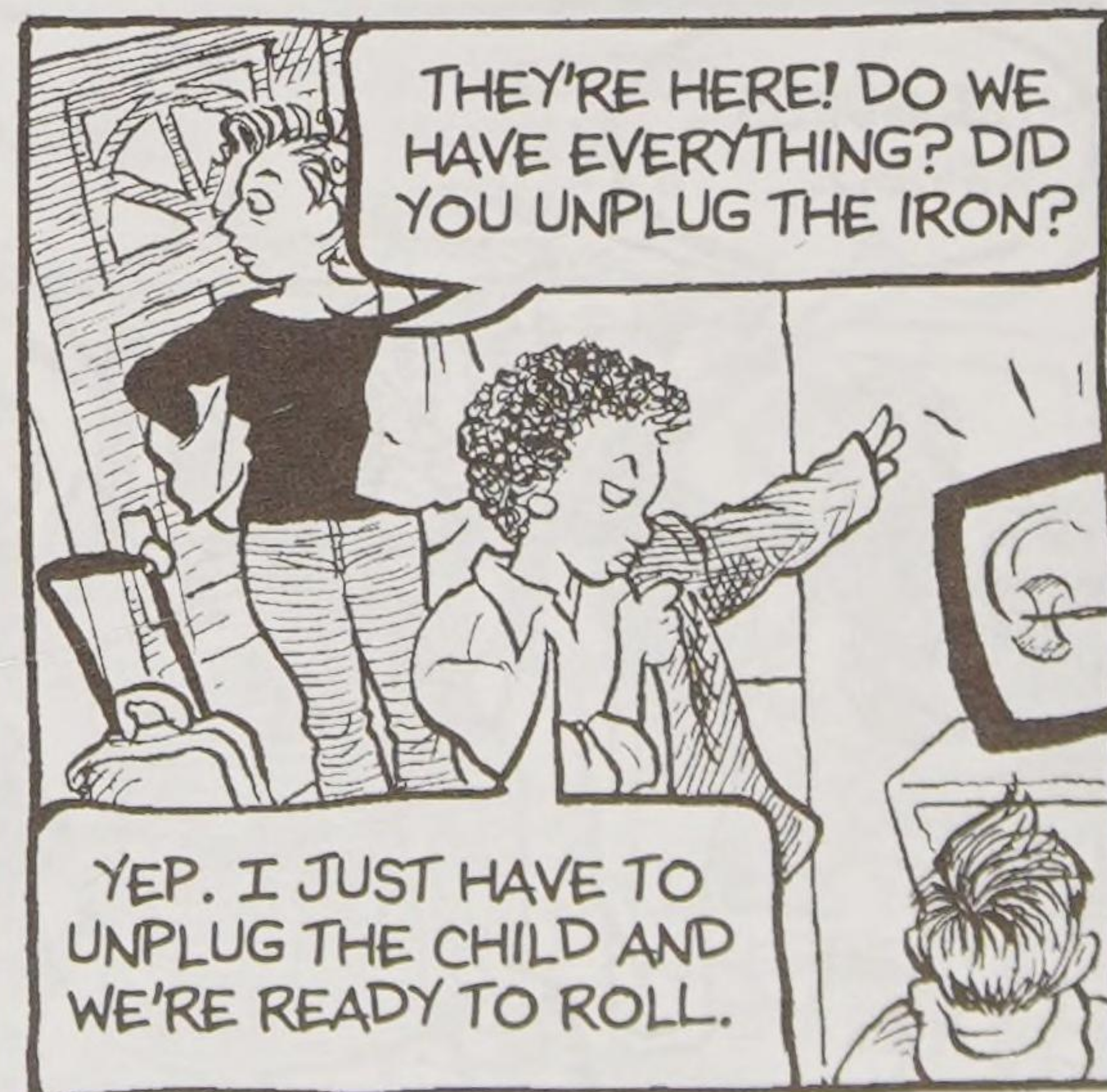
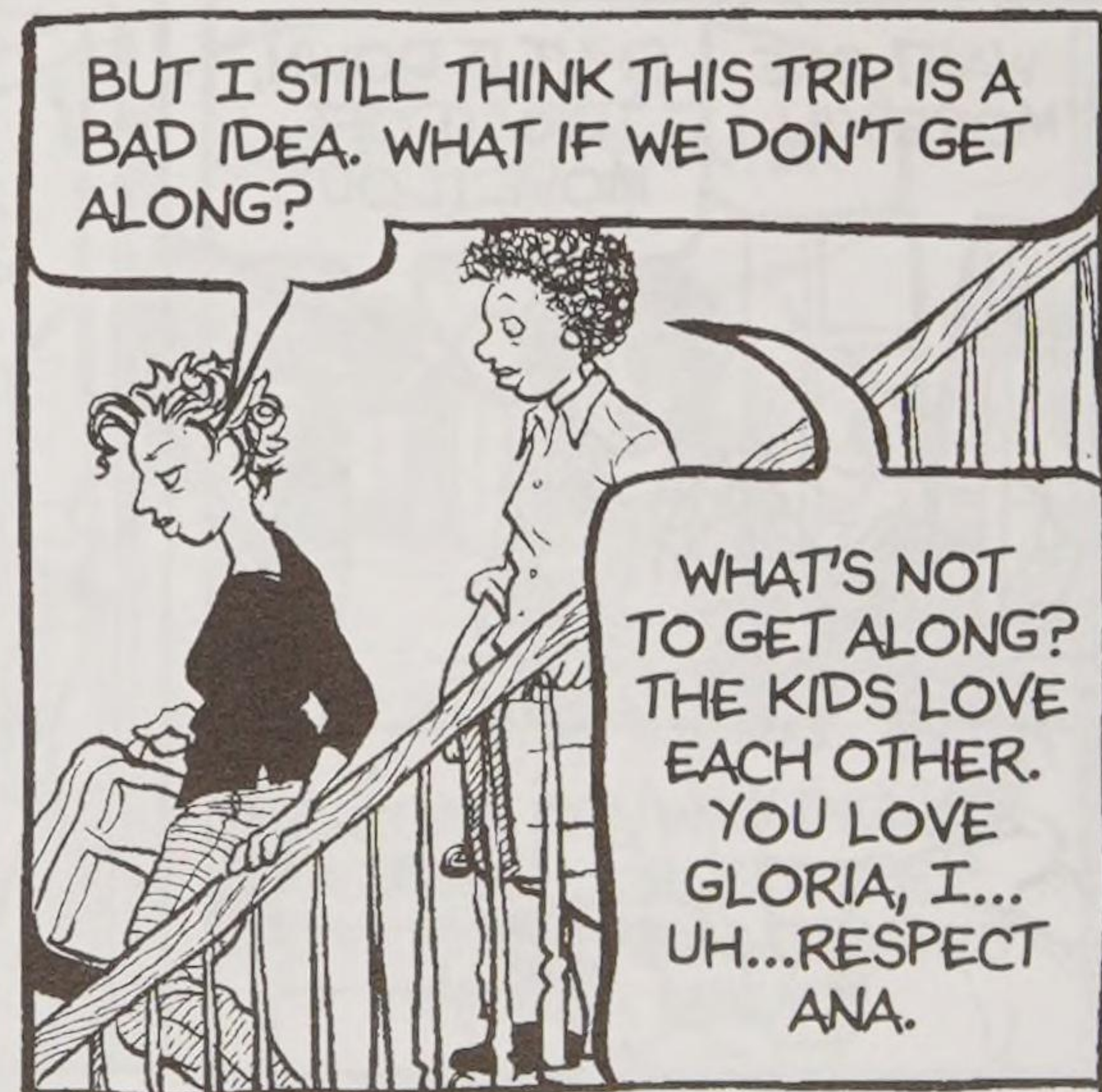
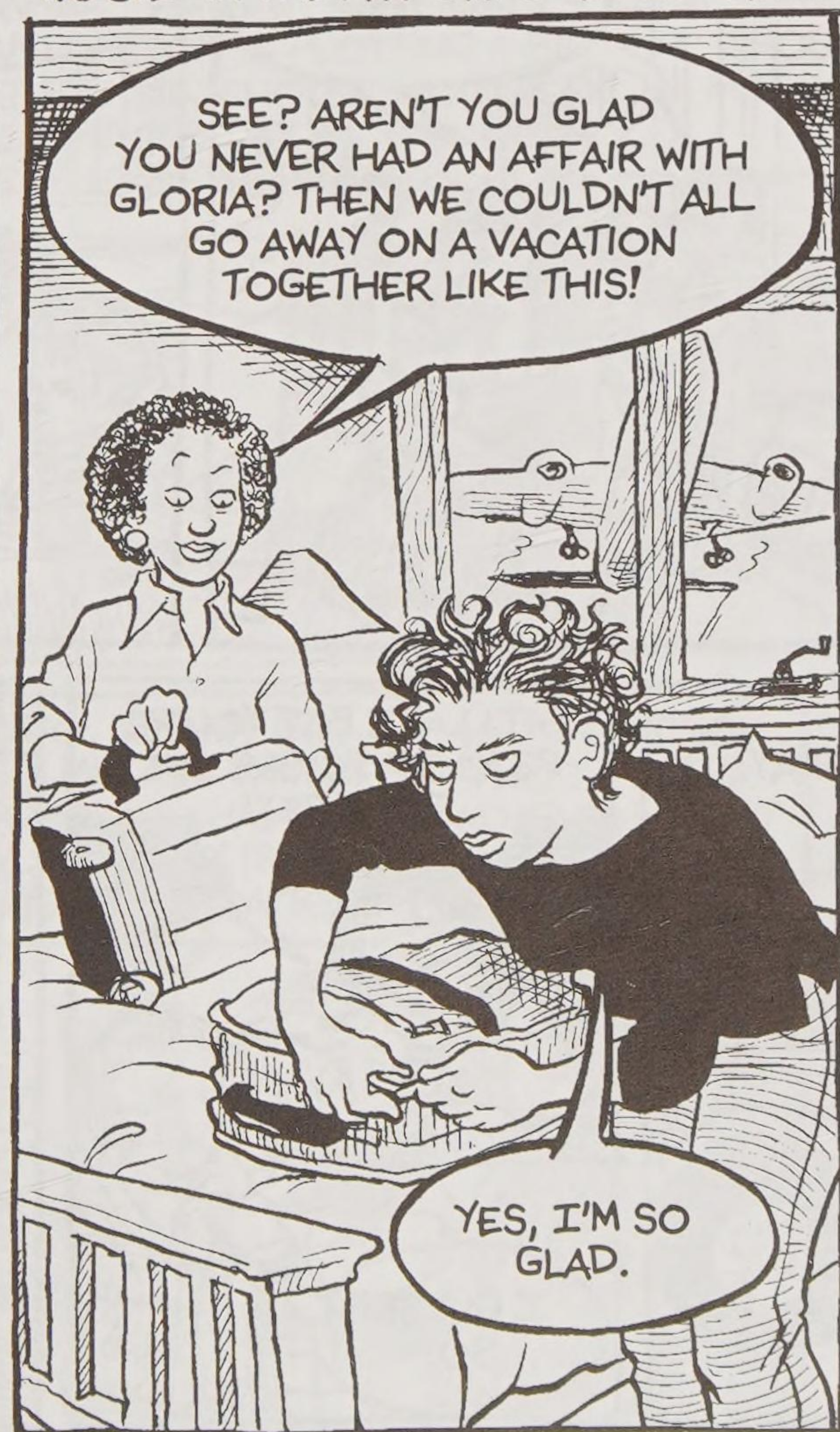
STRANGELY ENOUGH, I ACTUALLY AGREE WITH HER.

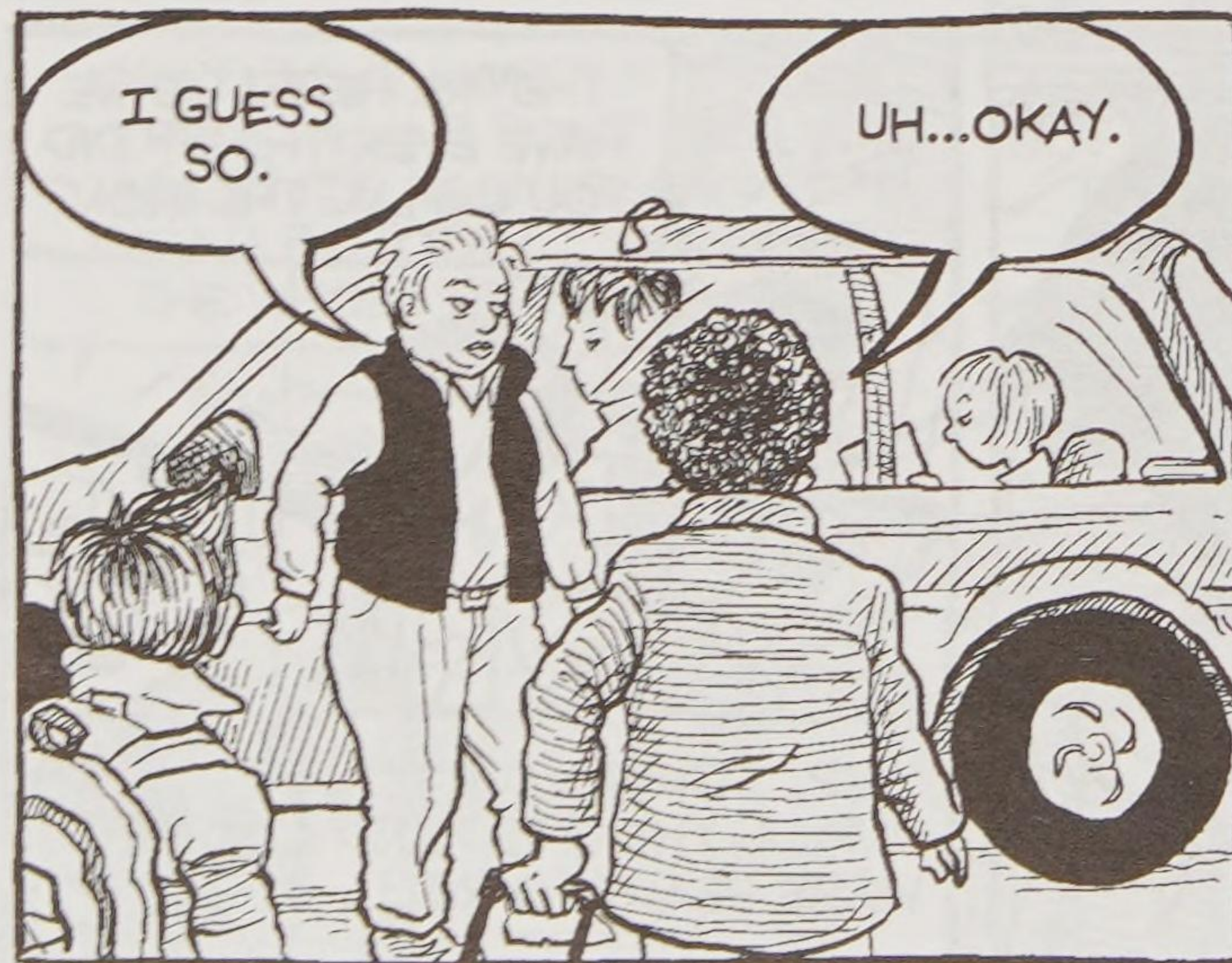


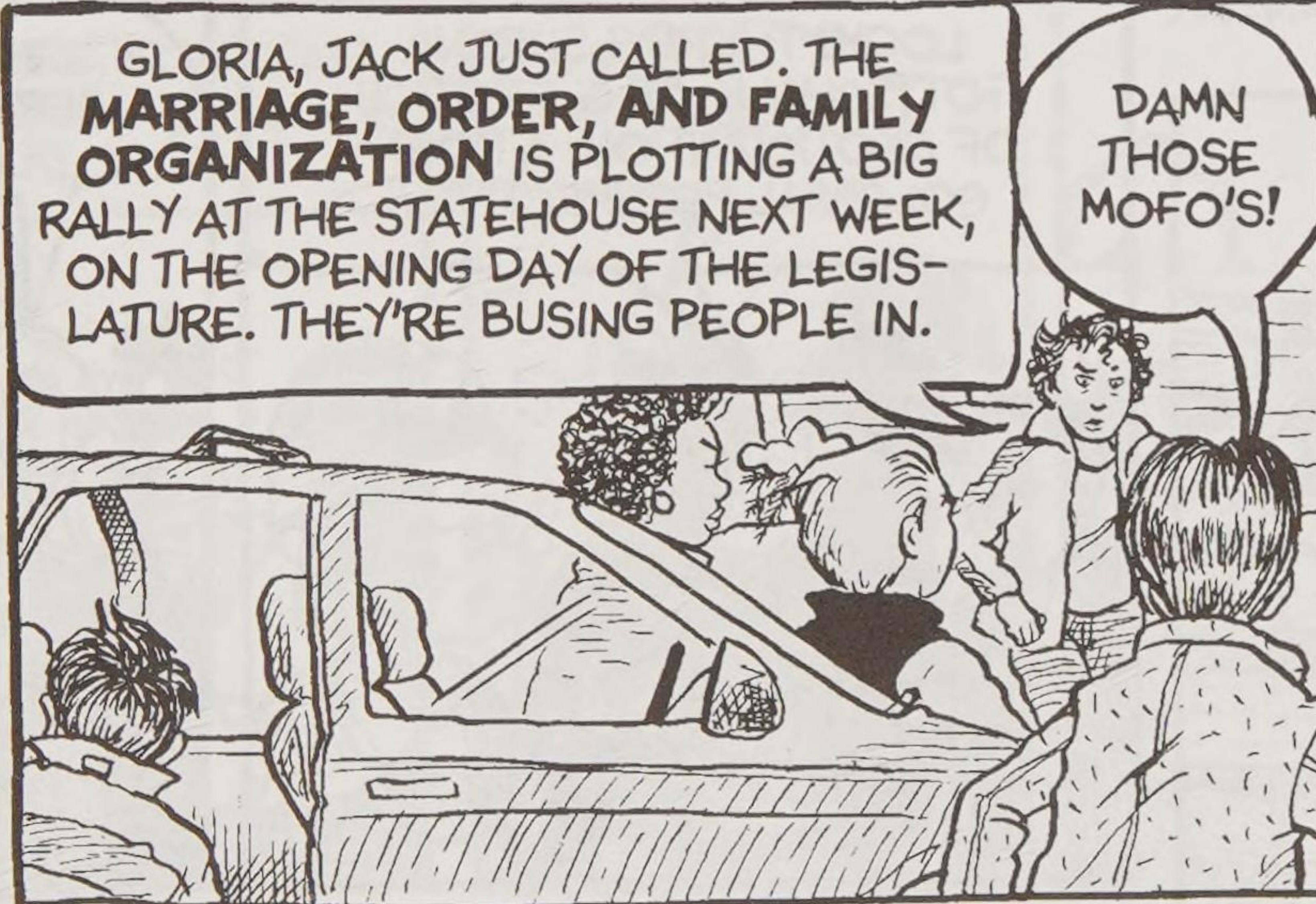




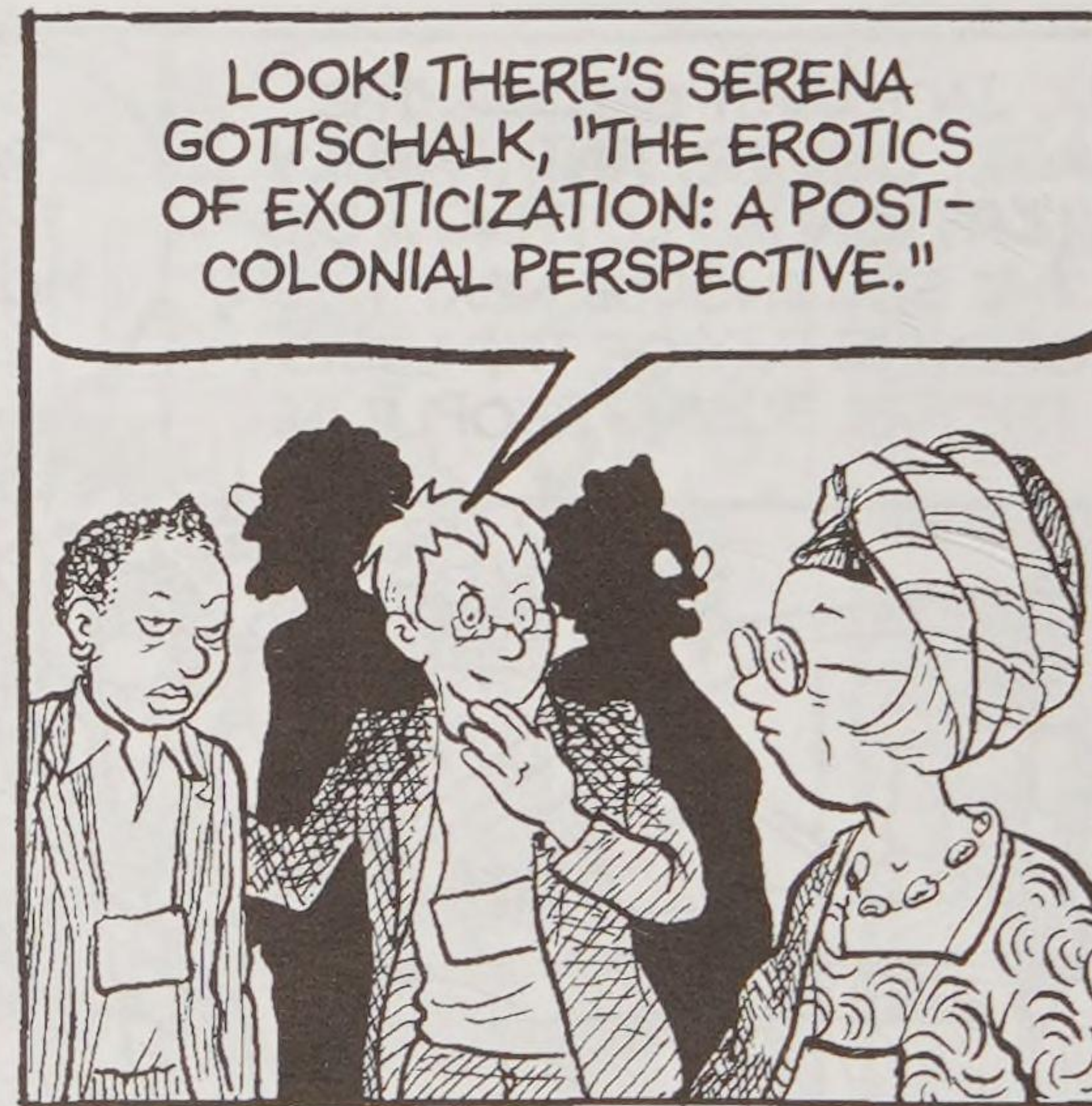
MEANWHILE, IN A NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTLY IN THE AIRPORT'S FLIGHT PATH...

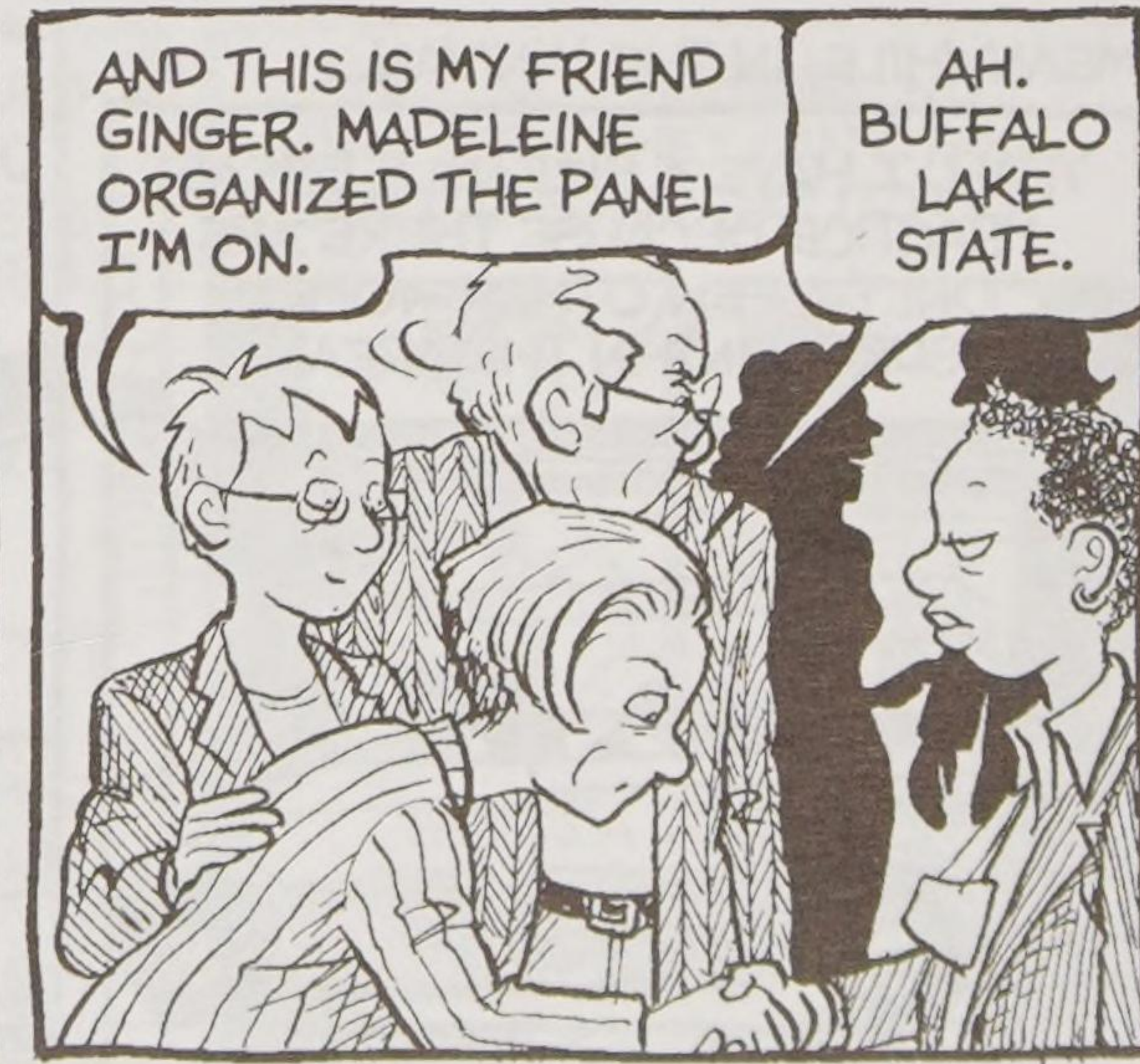
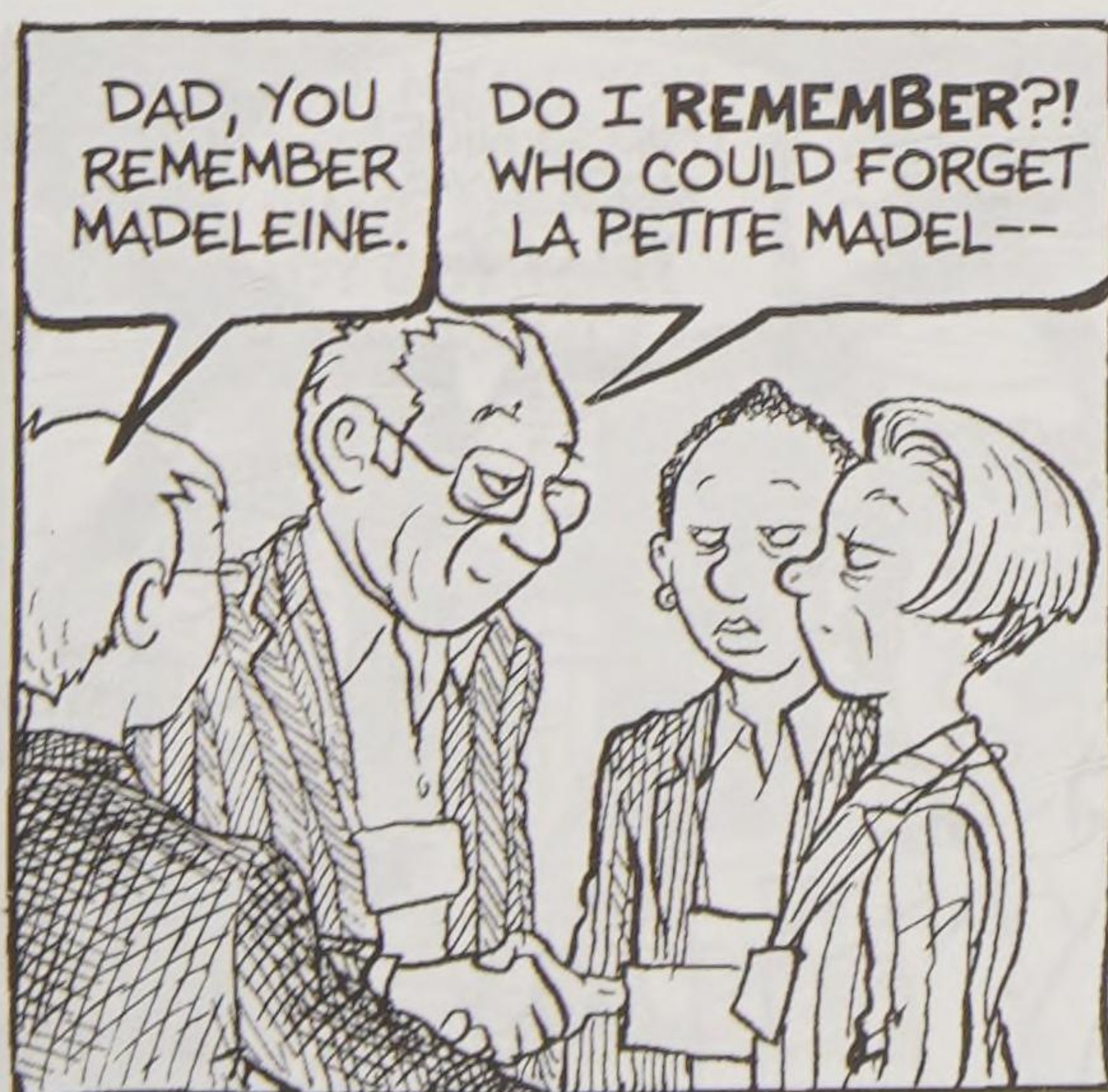
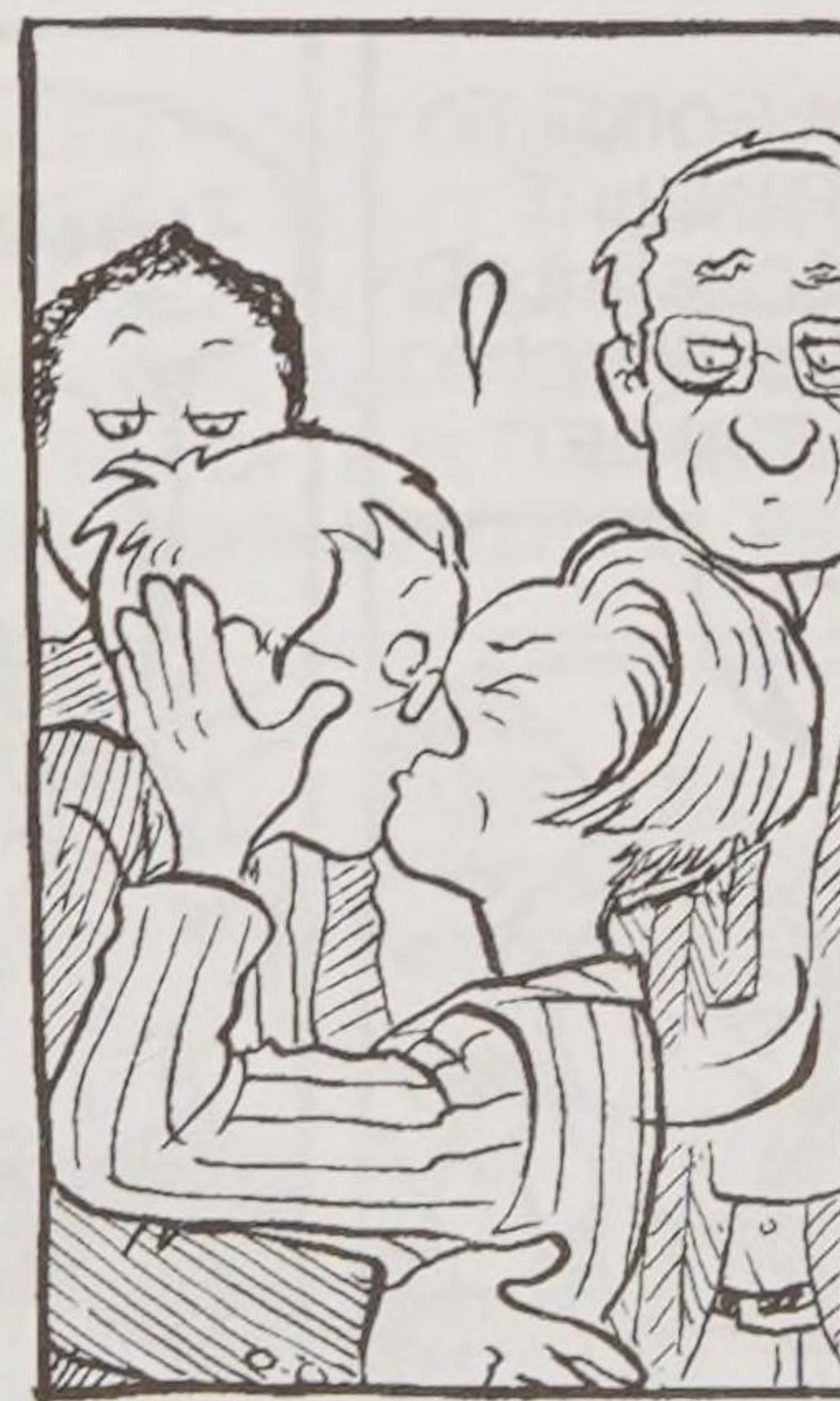
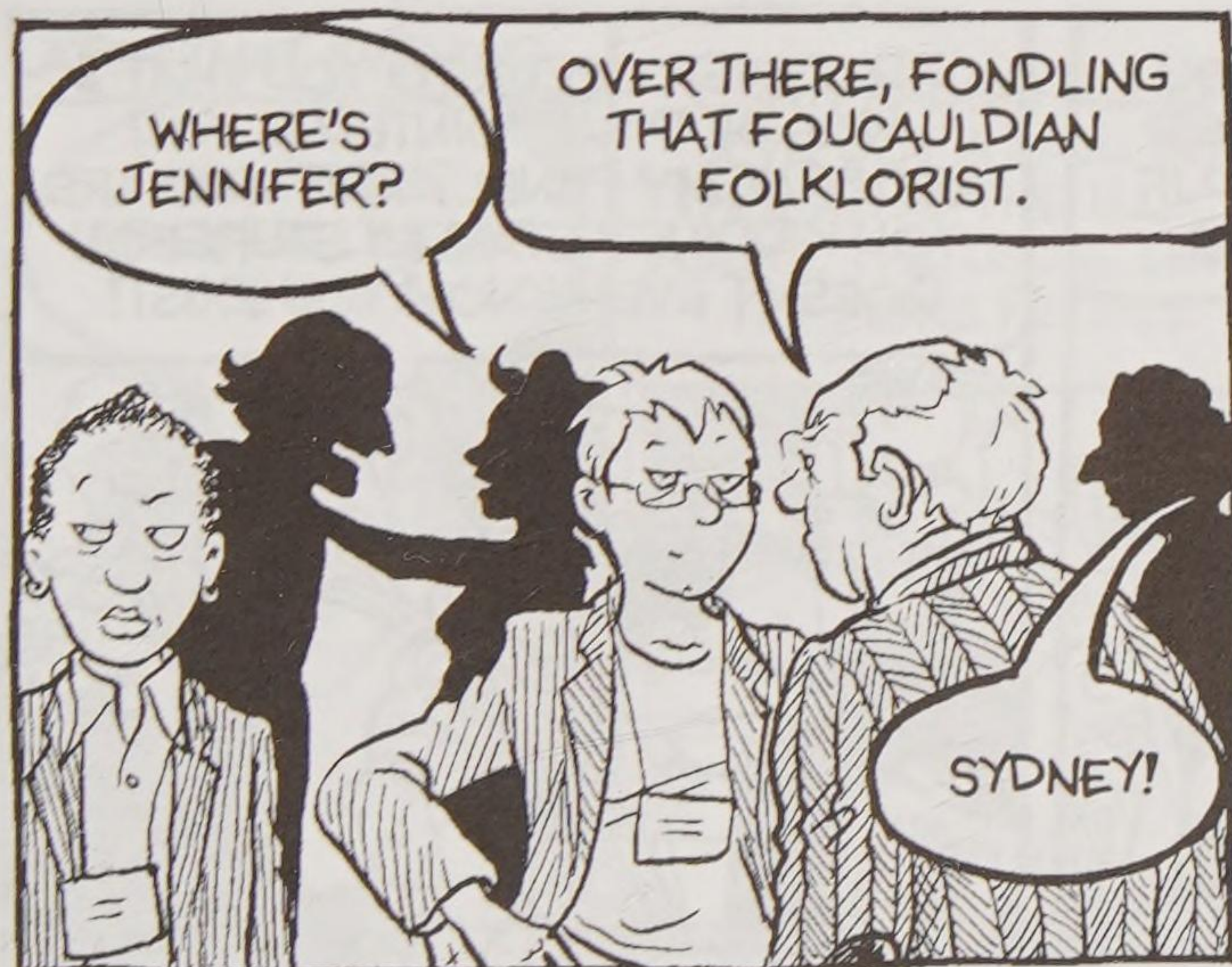




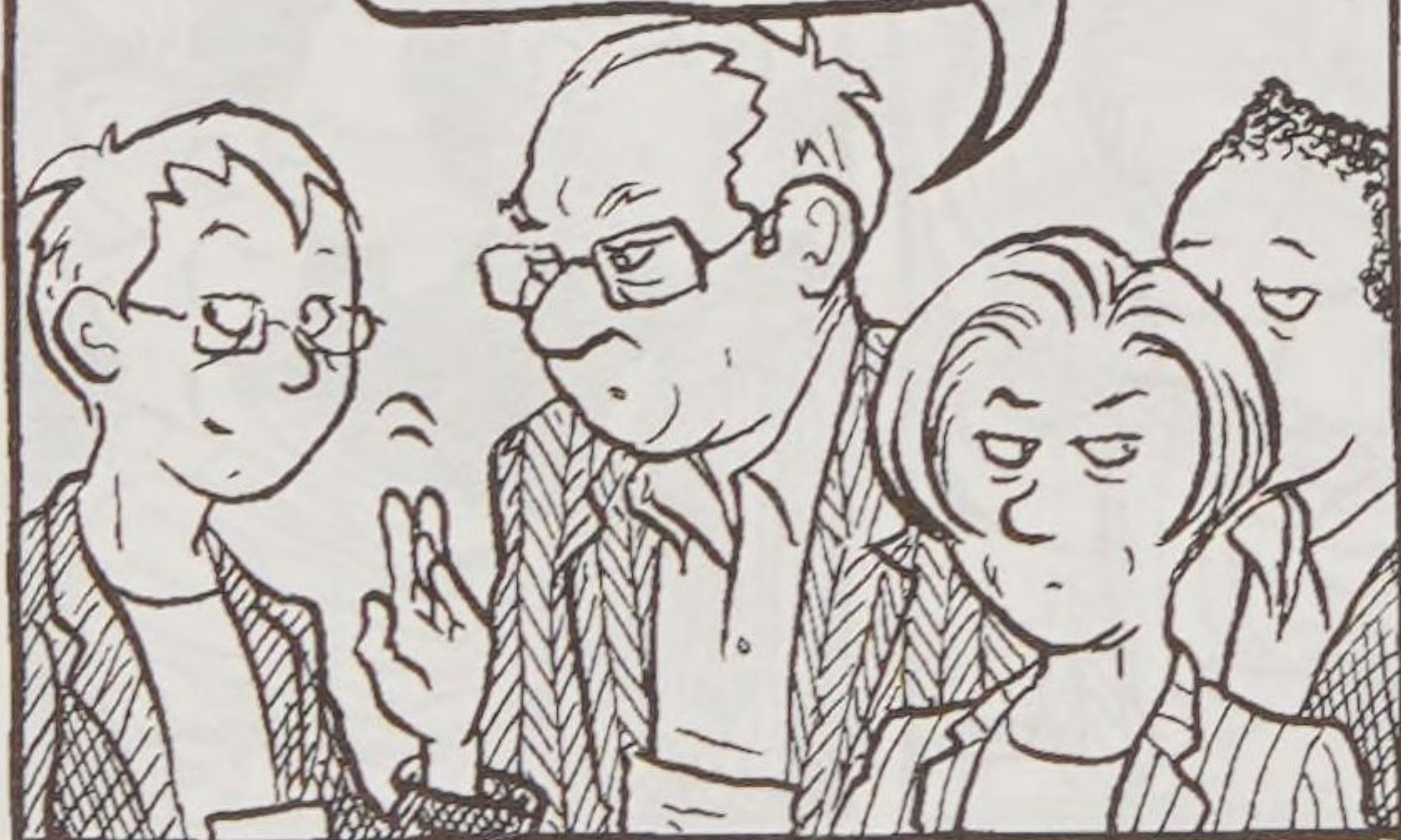


AFTER CHECKING INTO THEIR ROOM, GINGER AND SYDNEY JOIN THE MLA MELEE.



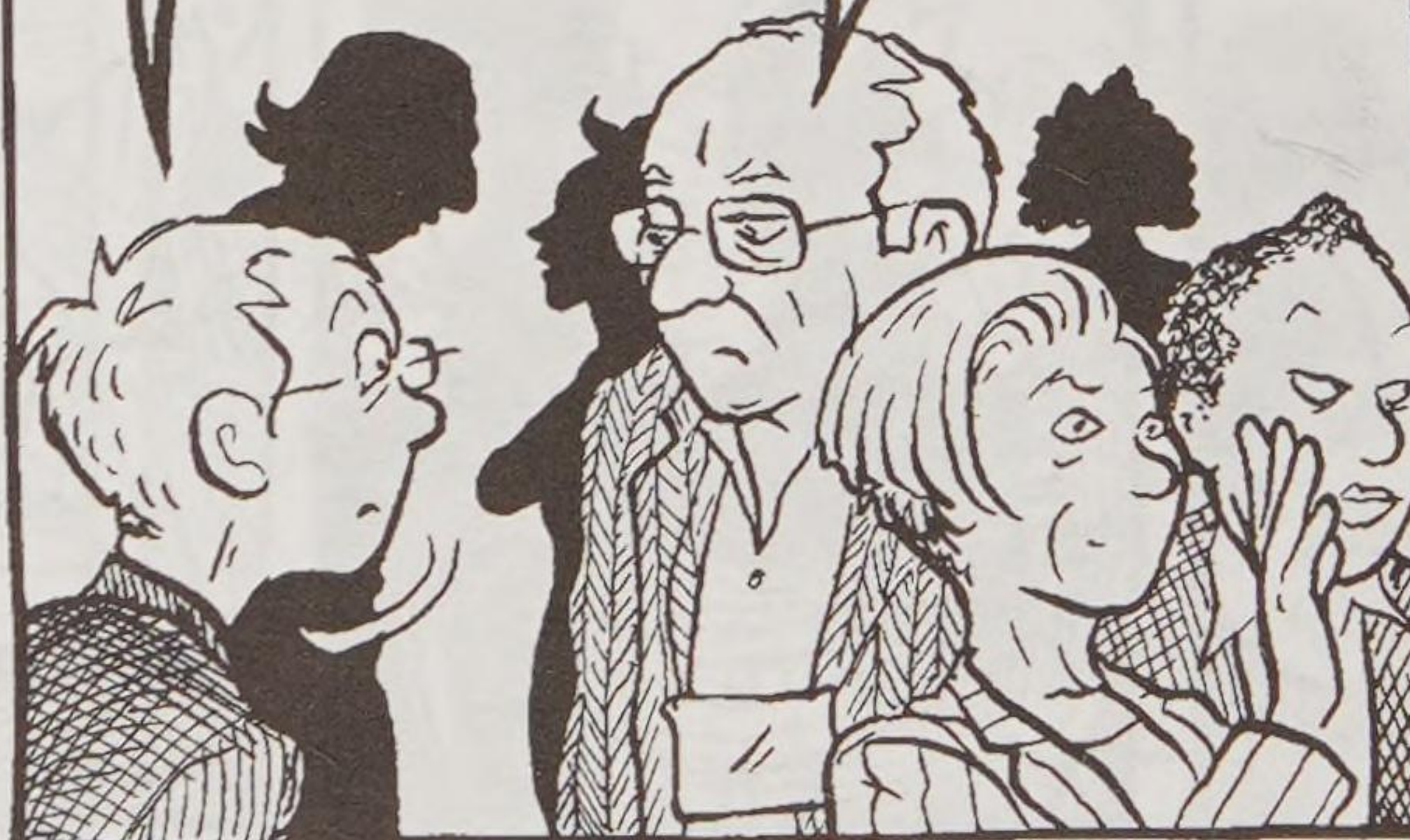


SYD, I'M SORRY, BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO MISS YOUR PANEL. I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS SCHEDULED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE SPECIAL SESSION HONORING STANLEY STURGEON.



WHAT?!

HE'S RETIRING, YOU KNOW. I THINK HE'D BE DISAPPOINTED IF I WEREN'T THERE.

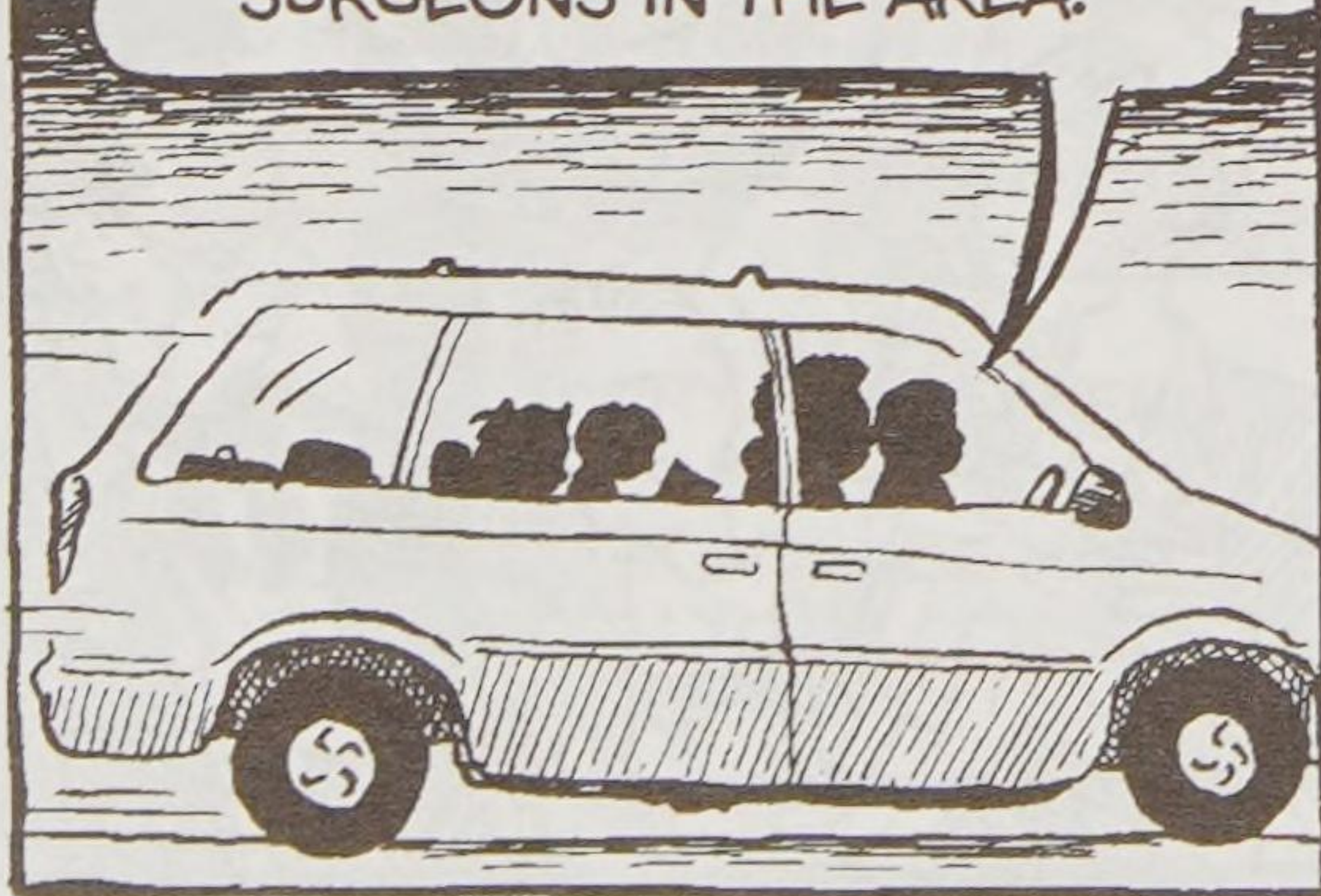


DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT I WILL BE DISAPPOINTED IF YOU AREN'T AT MY PANEL? AND WHO ARE YOU KIDDING? STANLEY STURGEON DOESN'T EVEN KNOW YOU EXIST!

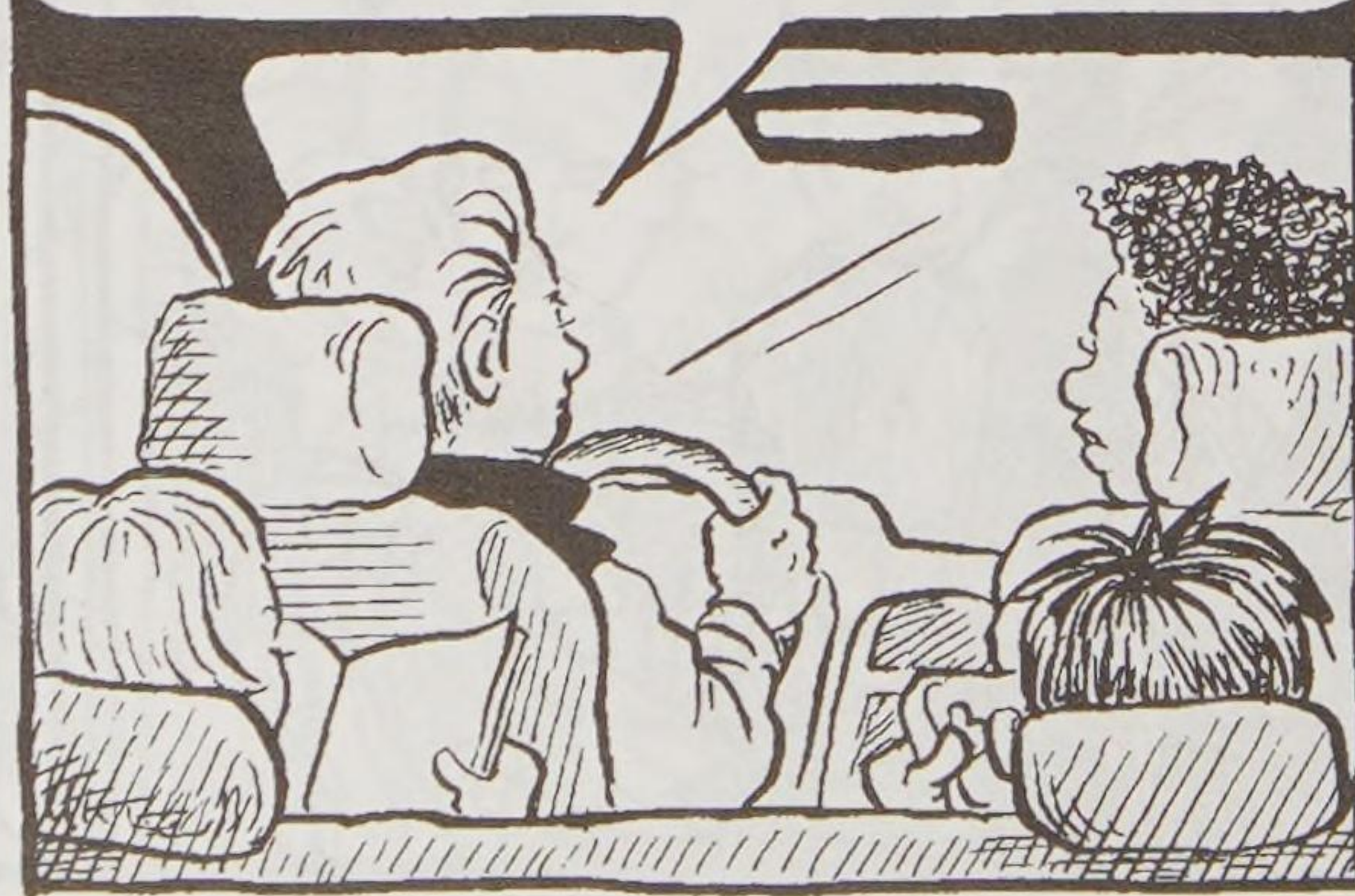


MEANWHILE, IN THE MINIVAN...

YEAH, I HAVE A SIZEABLE BREAST PRACTICE BECAUSE THERE ARE ONLY A FEW OTHER WOMEN SURGEONS IN THE AREA.



BUT THAT ISN'T REALLY THE BEST USE OF MY SKILLS. GIVE ME THE FINE DETAIL OF AN AORTIC ANEURYSM-ECTOMY ANY DAY OF THE WEEK.



A TIP O' THE NIB TO ALEX KNISELY

THIS IS NICE! NOBODY'S YELLING.



LATER THAT EVENING...

HOW'S THE
SPEAKER LINEUP
COMING?

OKAY. RABBI HELLER'S A YES, AND
I'VE GOT A CALL INTO REVEREND
THOMAS AT THE U.C.C. SOME **PFLAG**
FOLKS. THE USUAL LEGISLATORS. I'LL
TRY MORE PEOPLE TOMORROW.

I'VE BEEN MONITORING THE MOFO'S
LISTSERV. I DON'T THINK THEY'RE
GONNA GET ANYWHERE NEAR OUR
TURNOUT. OH...AND THE OP-ED'S DUE
BY THE END OF THE DAY TOMORROW.
YOU'RE GONNA HELP ME, RIGHT?

SURE. WELL, I'D
BETTER GO HOME AND
GET SOME SLEEP.

OH. UH...I MEAN, YOU
COULD STAY HERE IF
YOU WANT. YOU'VE
ALREADY GOT YOUR
SUITCASE, RIGHT?

OKAY! YOU
CONVINCED
ME.

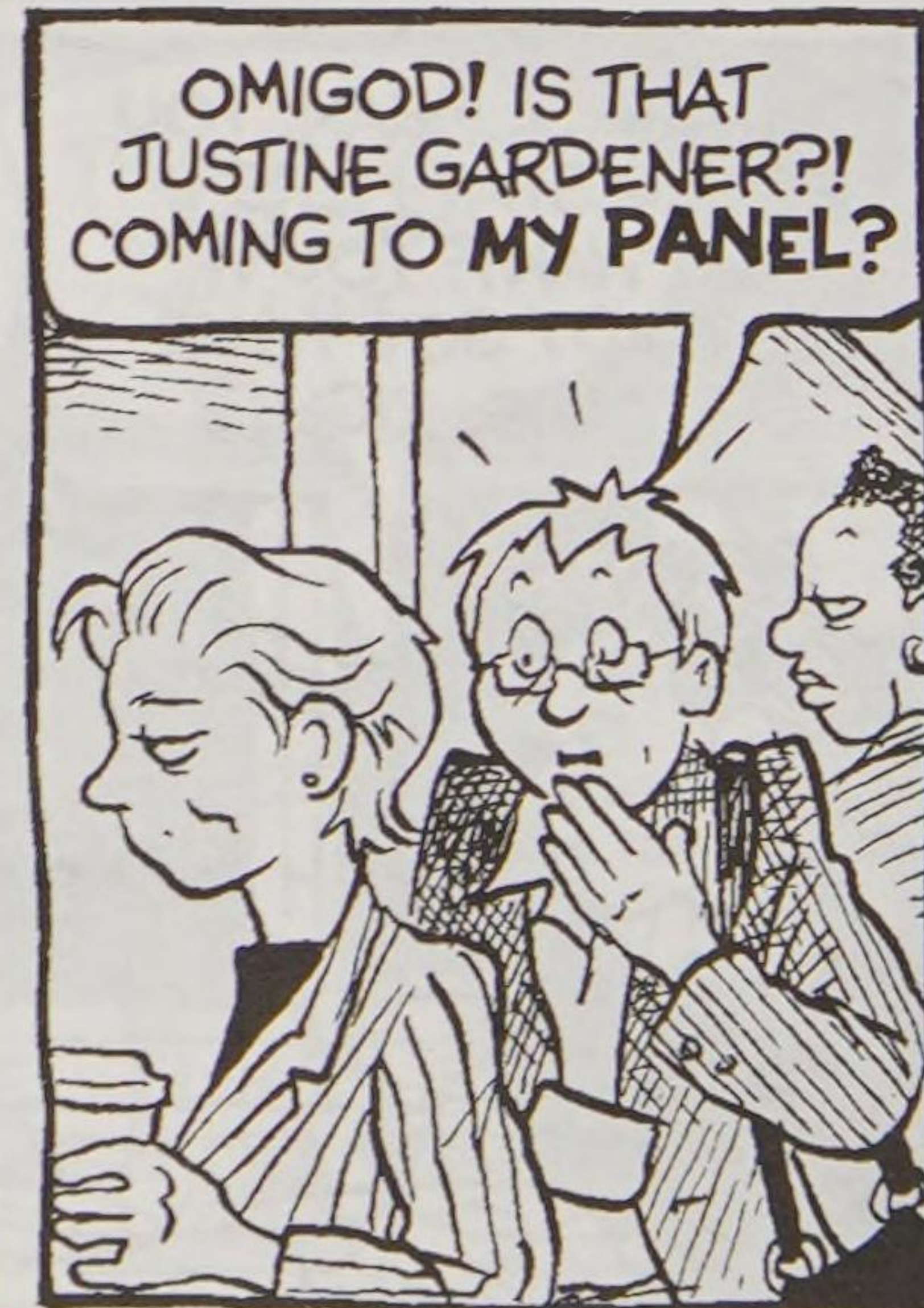
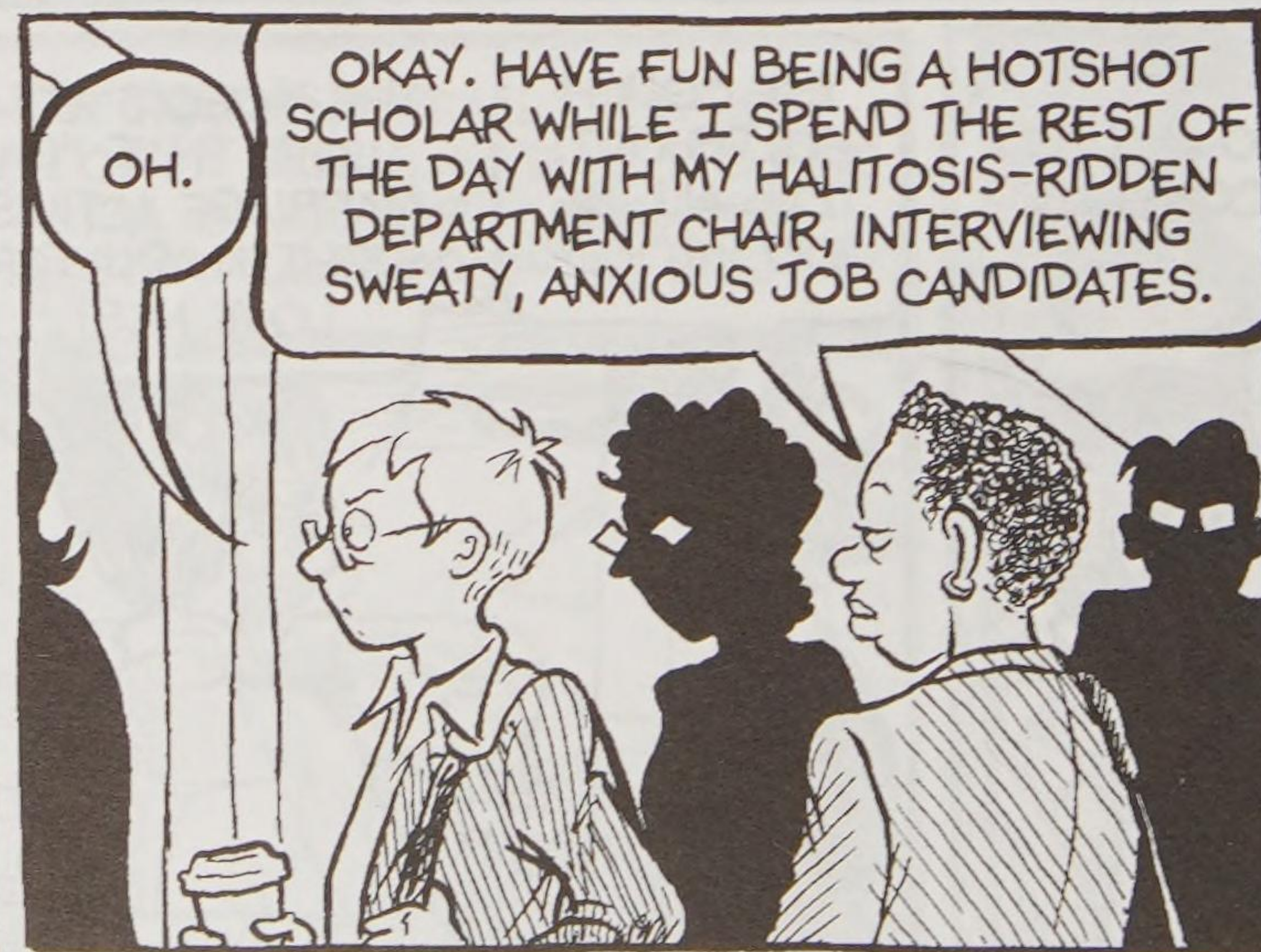
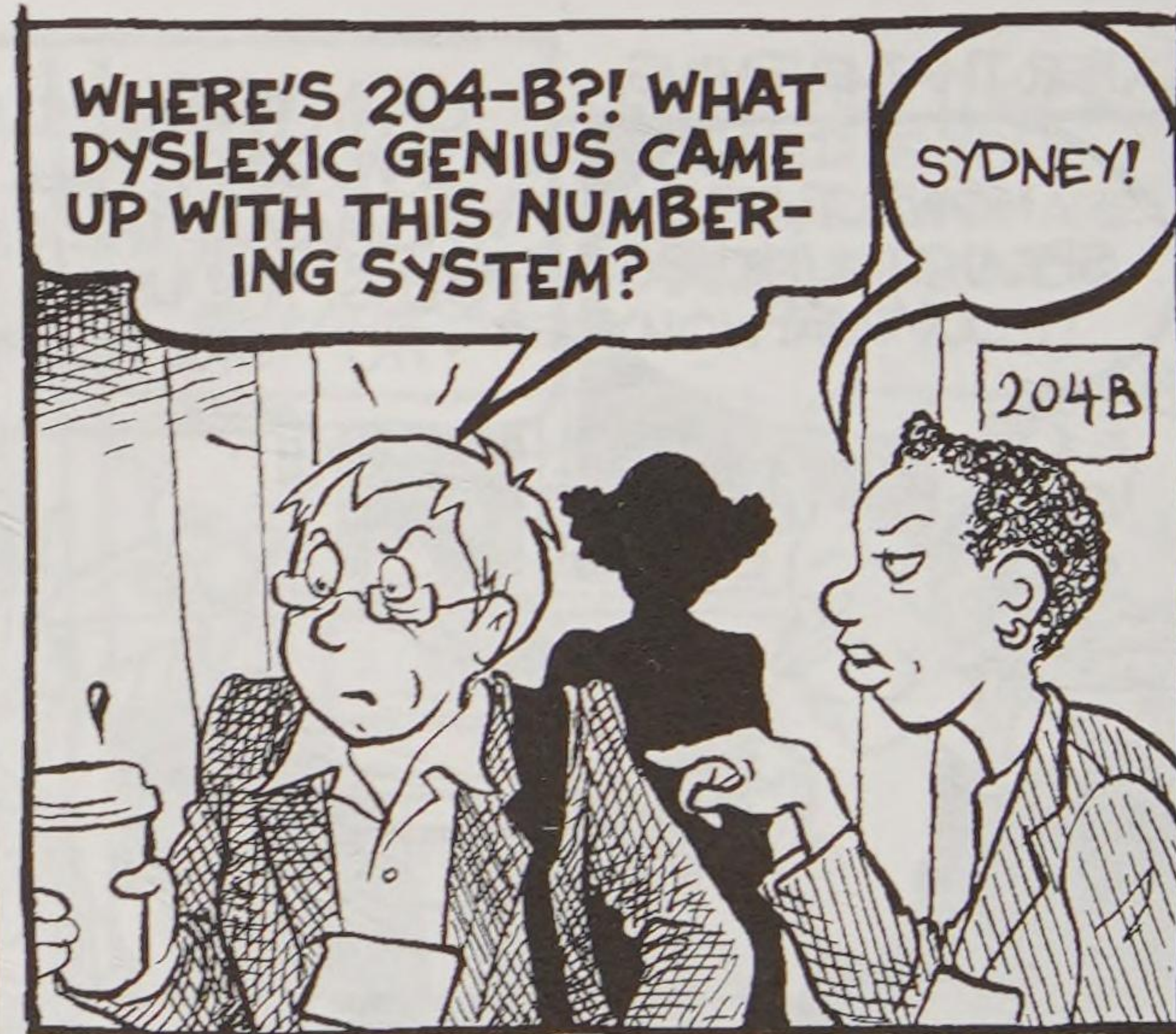
THE COUCH
FOLDS OUT.
IT'LL ALL BE
VERY PROPER.

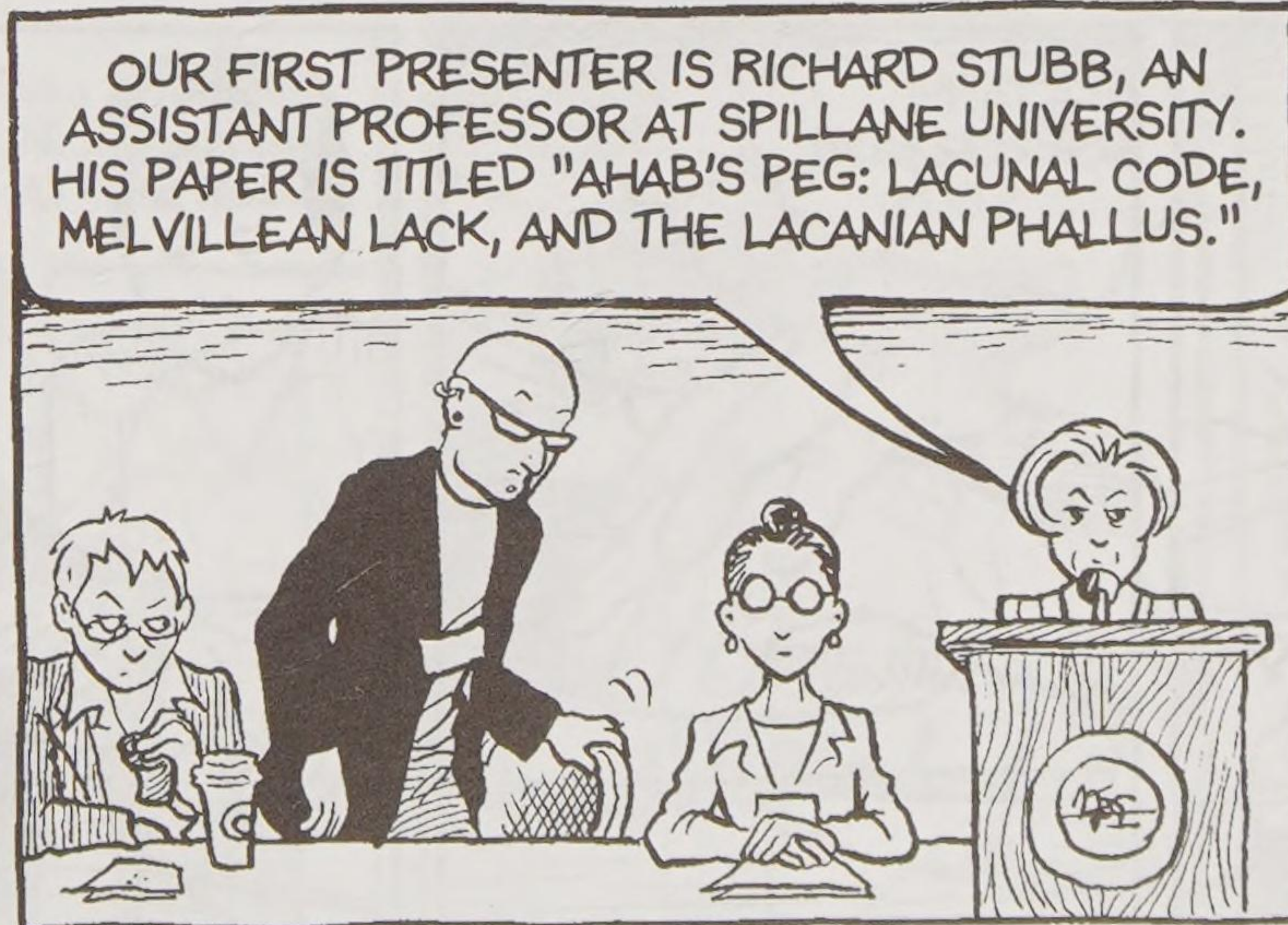
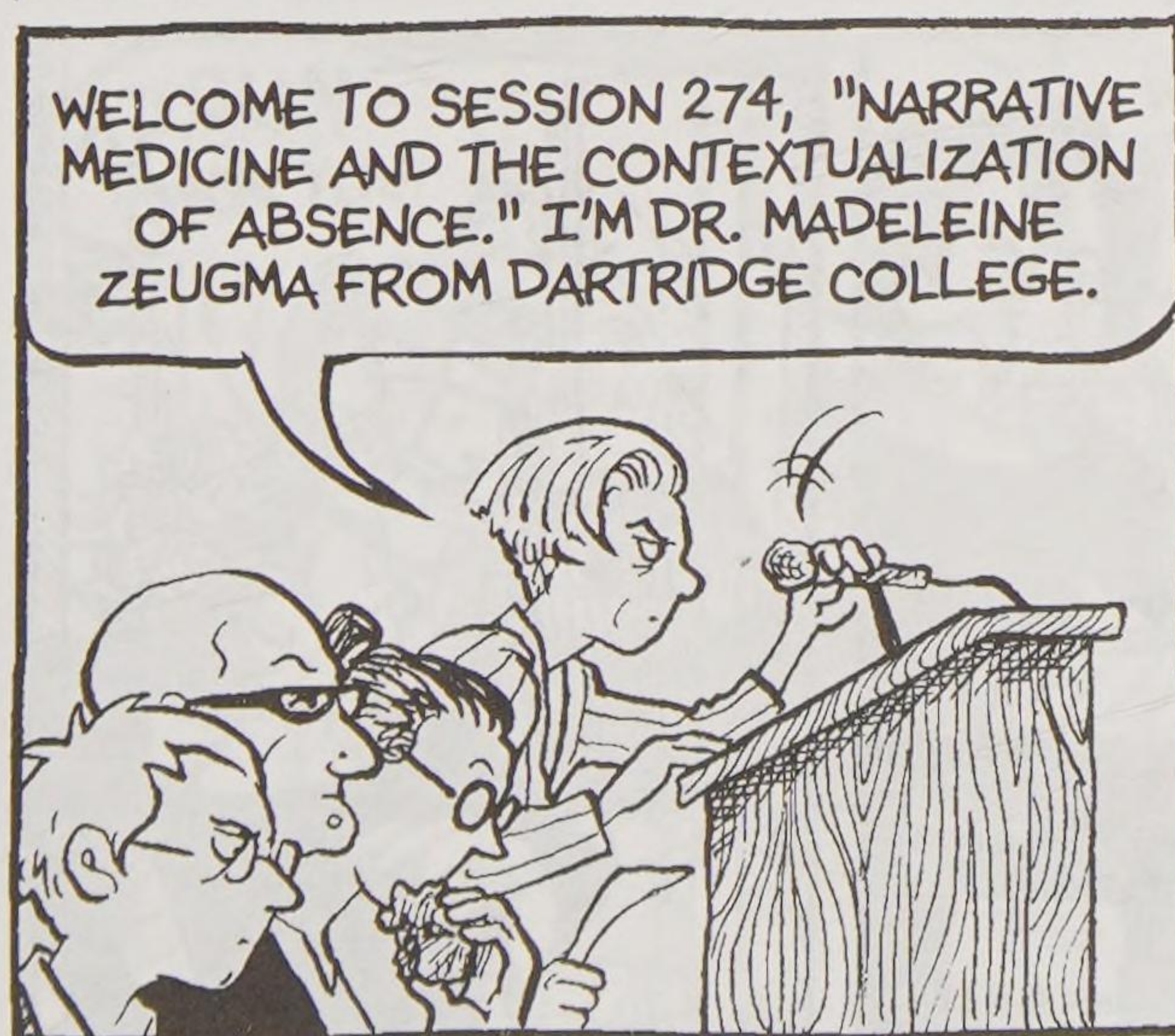
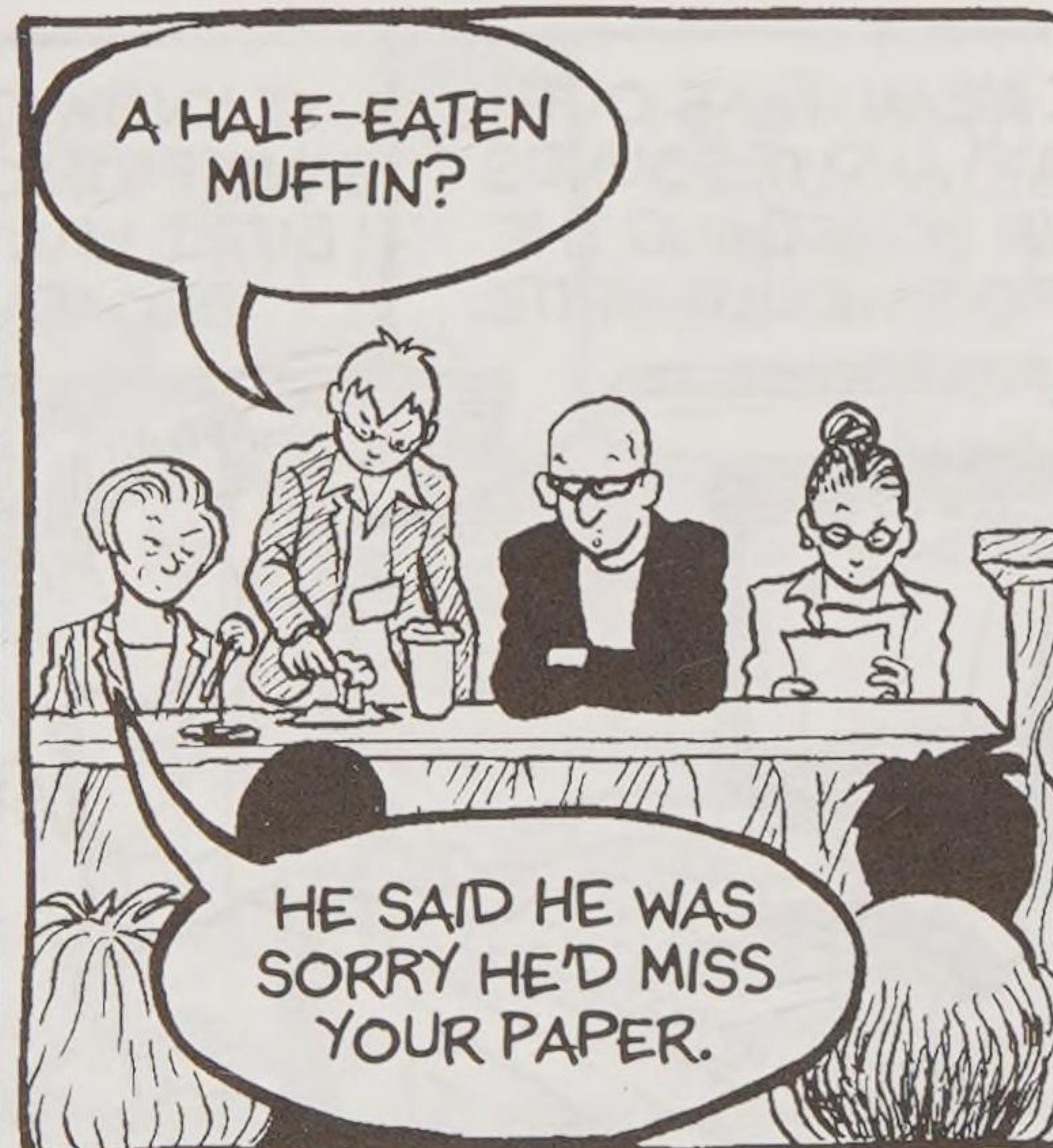
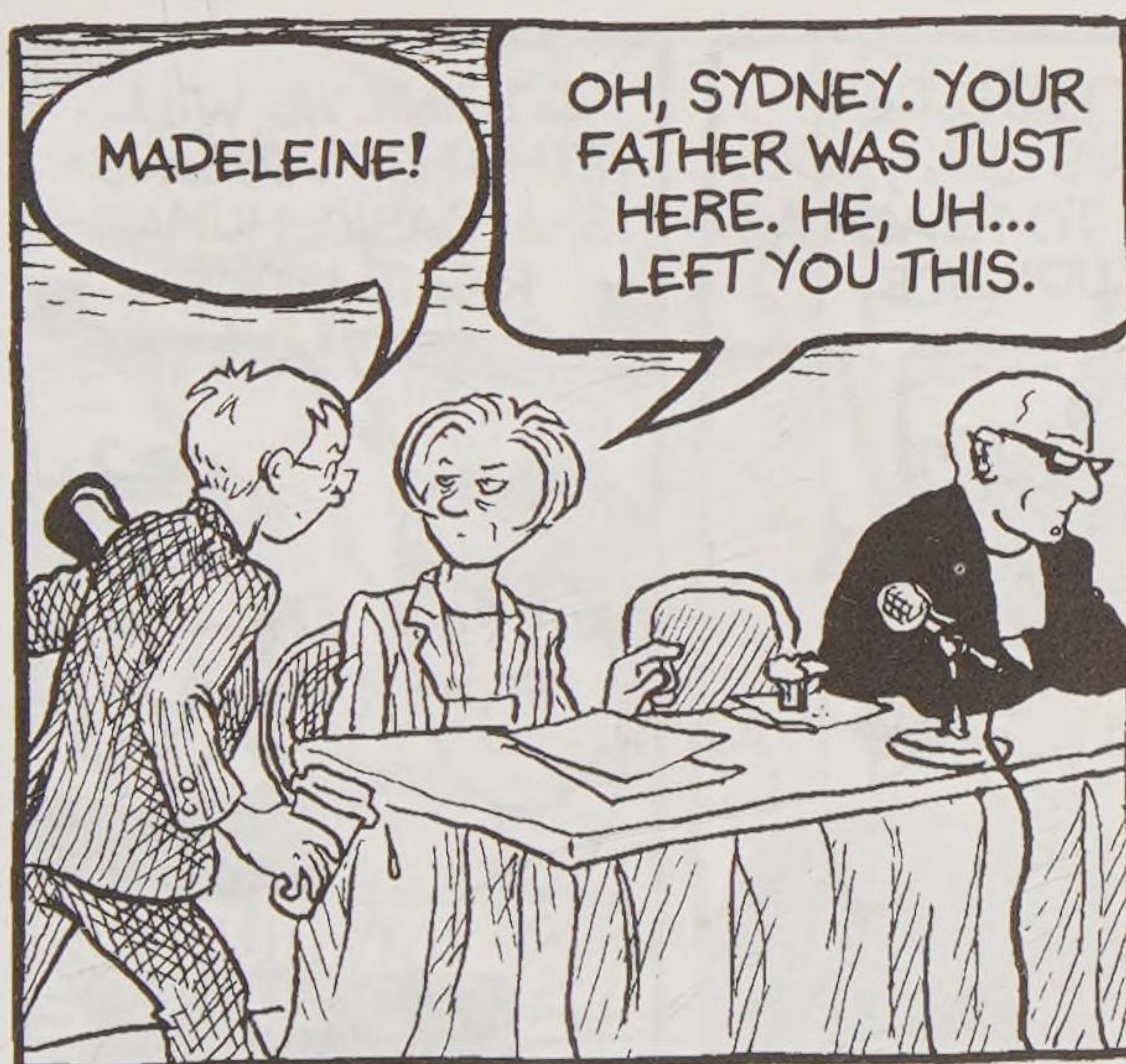
THE MOFO'S WOULD
LOVE THAT. "GAY
MARRIAGE ACTIVISTS
CAUGHT IN ADULTEROUS
LOVE NEST."

HEY, NO MARRIAGE, NO
ADULTERY. THEY CAN'T TAKE
OUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO.

THAT'S A JOB
FOR US SELFISH
HEDONISTS.

NEXT DAY, AFTER THE SOBERING FORUM, "WHITHER THE HUMANITIES?"





MEANWHILE, BACK IN MIDDLE AMERICA...

I DUNNO ABOUT THIS PART. "GAY PEOPLE PAY TAXES, MOW THEIR LAWNS, AND WORRY ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN'S SECURITY, JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE."



I MEAN, TAKE OUT "GAY" AND IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING THE MOFO'S WOULD WRITE.

I KNOW. I HATE THAT SANCTIMONIOUS CRAP, TOO. BUT I WANT TO REACH A BROAD AUDIENCE.

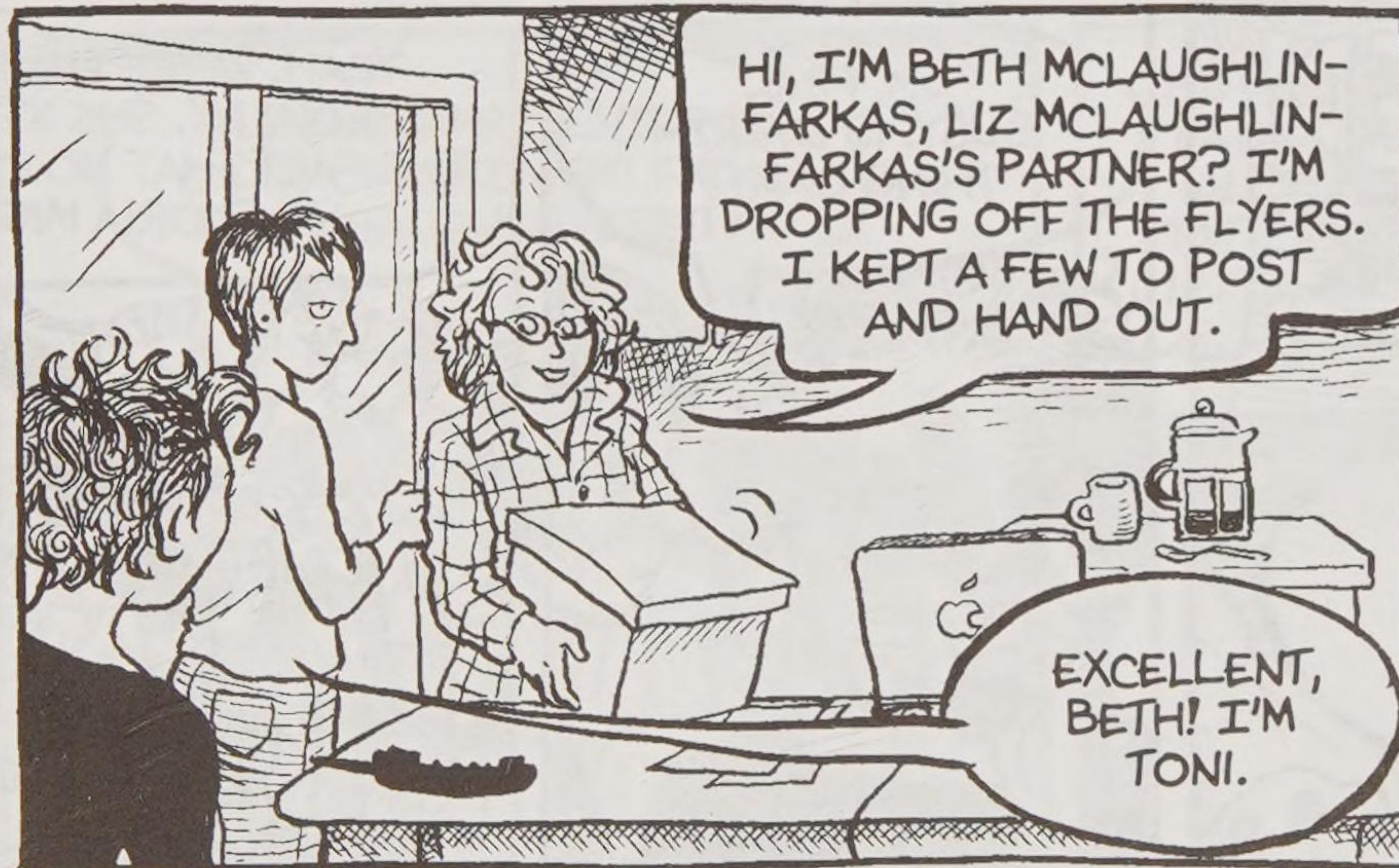


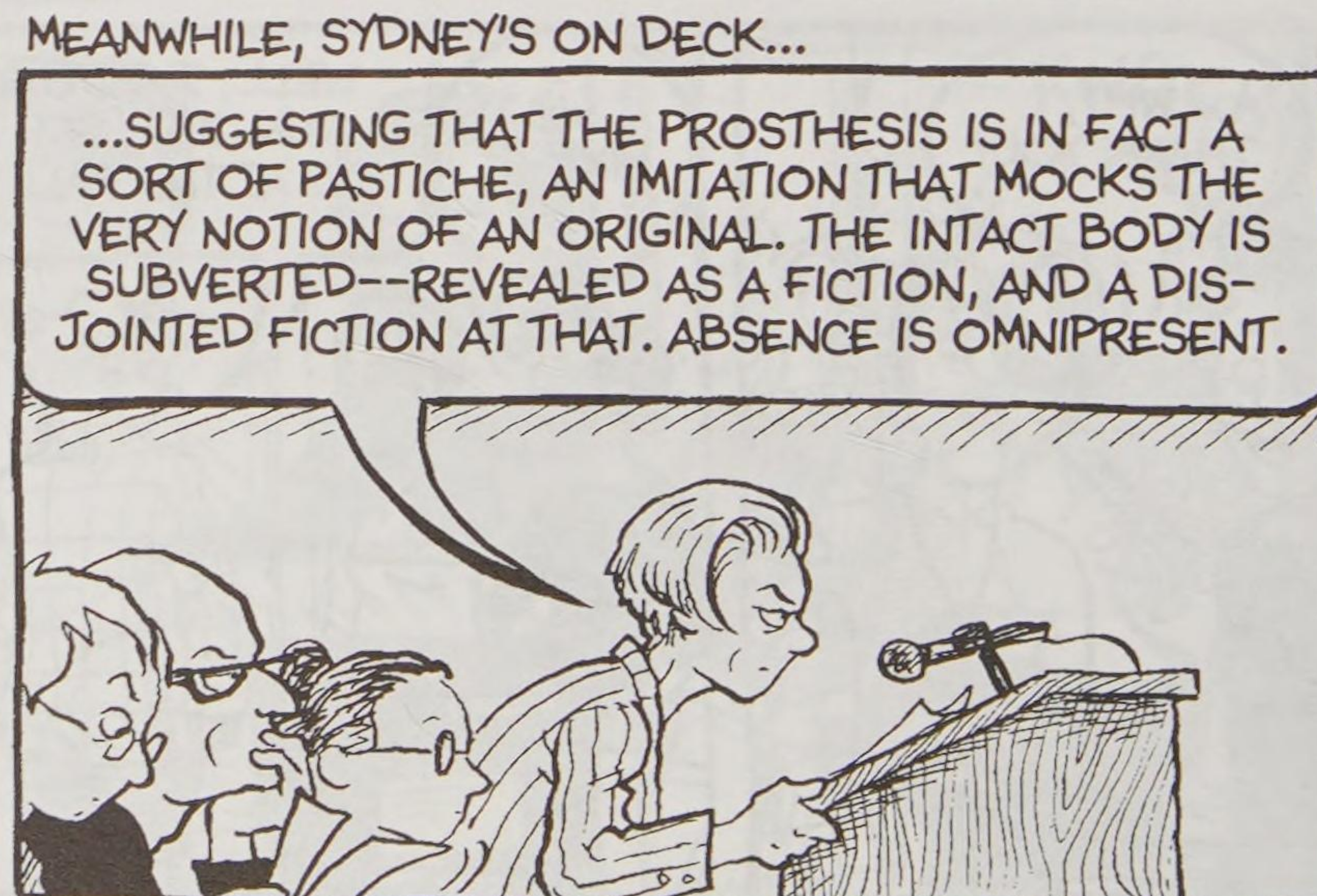
I THINK WE WILL WITH THE MARRIAGE-IS-A-BASIC-HUMAN-RIGHT ANGLE.

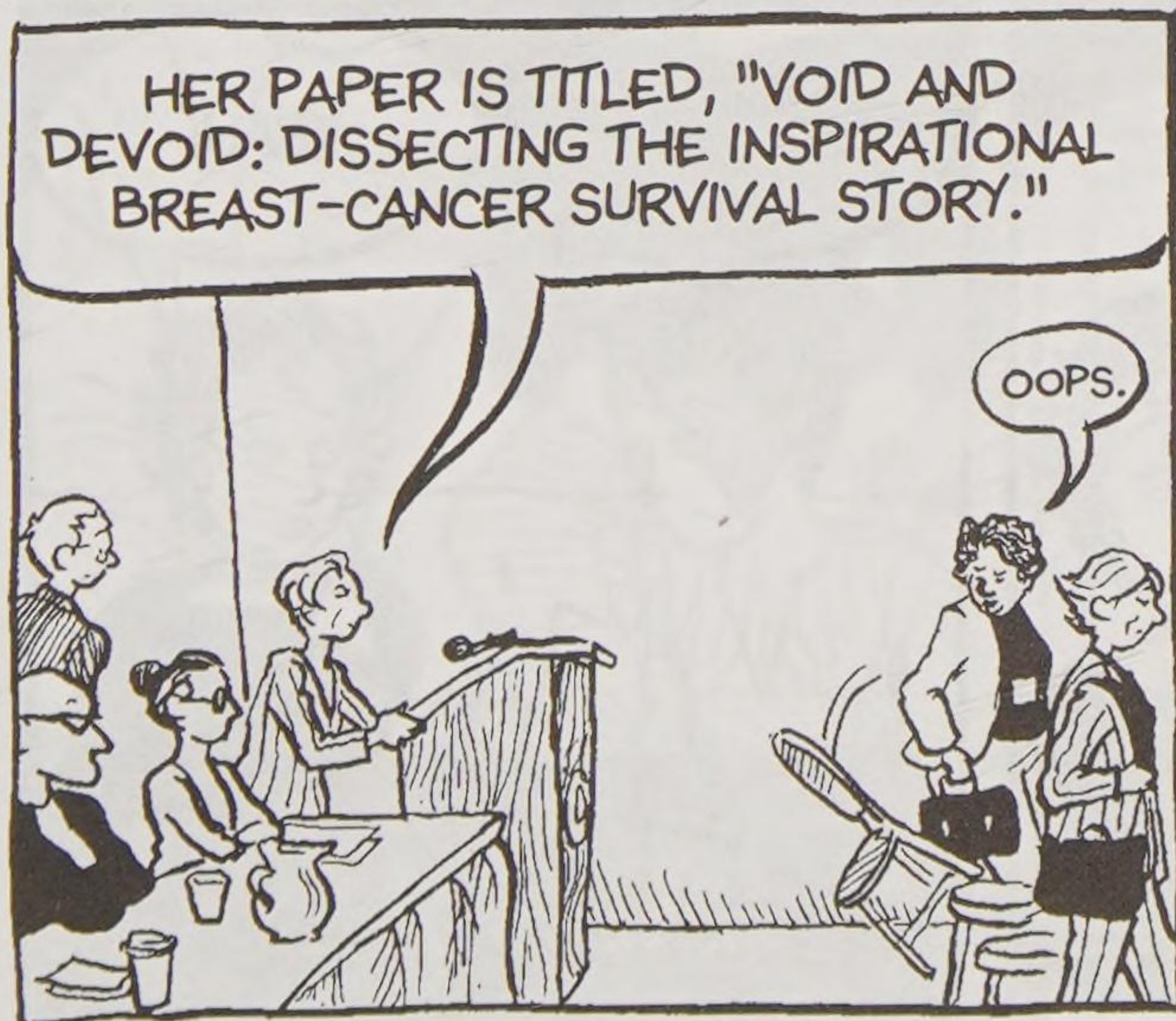
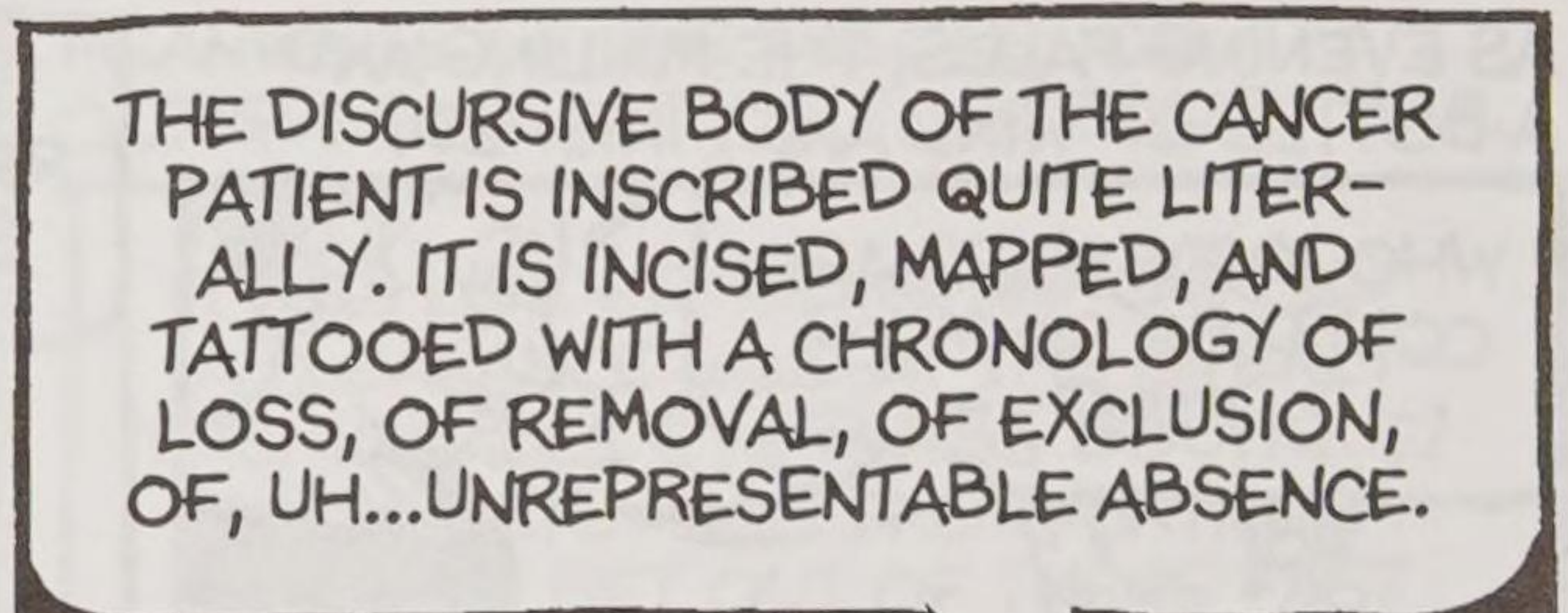


OKAY, LEMME FIX IT...









AS EVENING FALLS, THE MAILING AND A BOTTLE OF WINE ARE FINISHED.

WHO KNEW MARRIAGE COULD BE SO MUCH FUN?

I KNOW. I'M REALLY GLAD WE STAYED HERE.

UM, WE SHOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THE LOCAL NEWS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE LET THAT WOMAN THINK WE'RE A COUPLE. WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WHEN SHE FINDS OUT WE'RE NOT?

GOD, I DON'T KNOW.

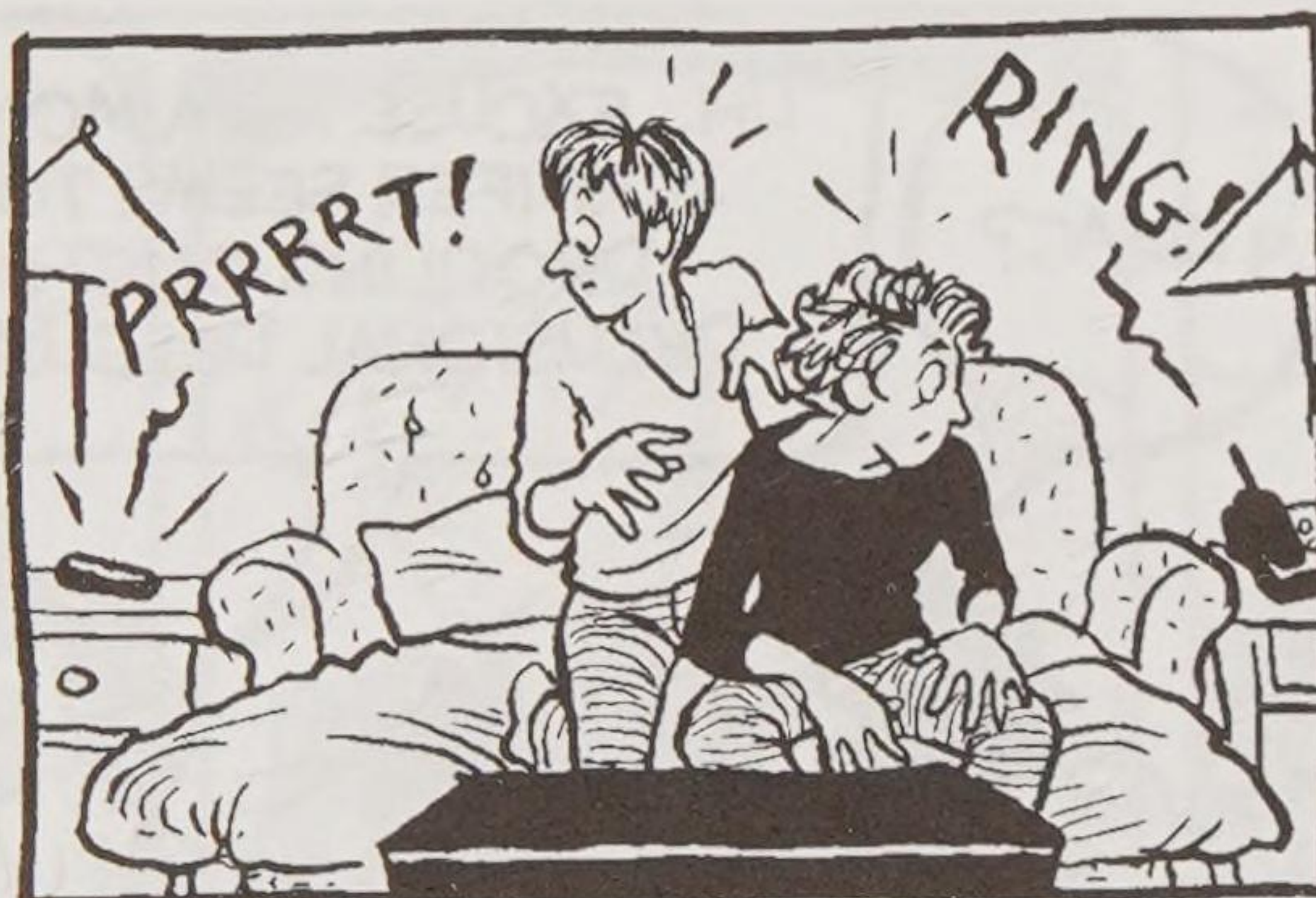
I WISH WE COULD FREEZE TIME. WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT HER, OR THE MOFO'S, OR...OR ANYTHING.

THAT WOULD BE NICE.

CRICK

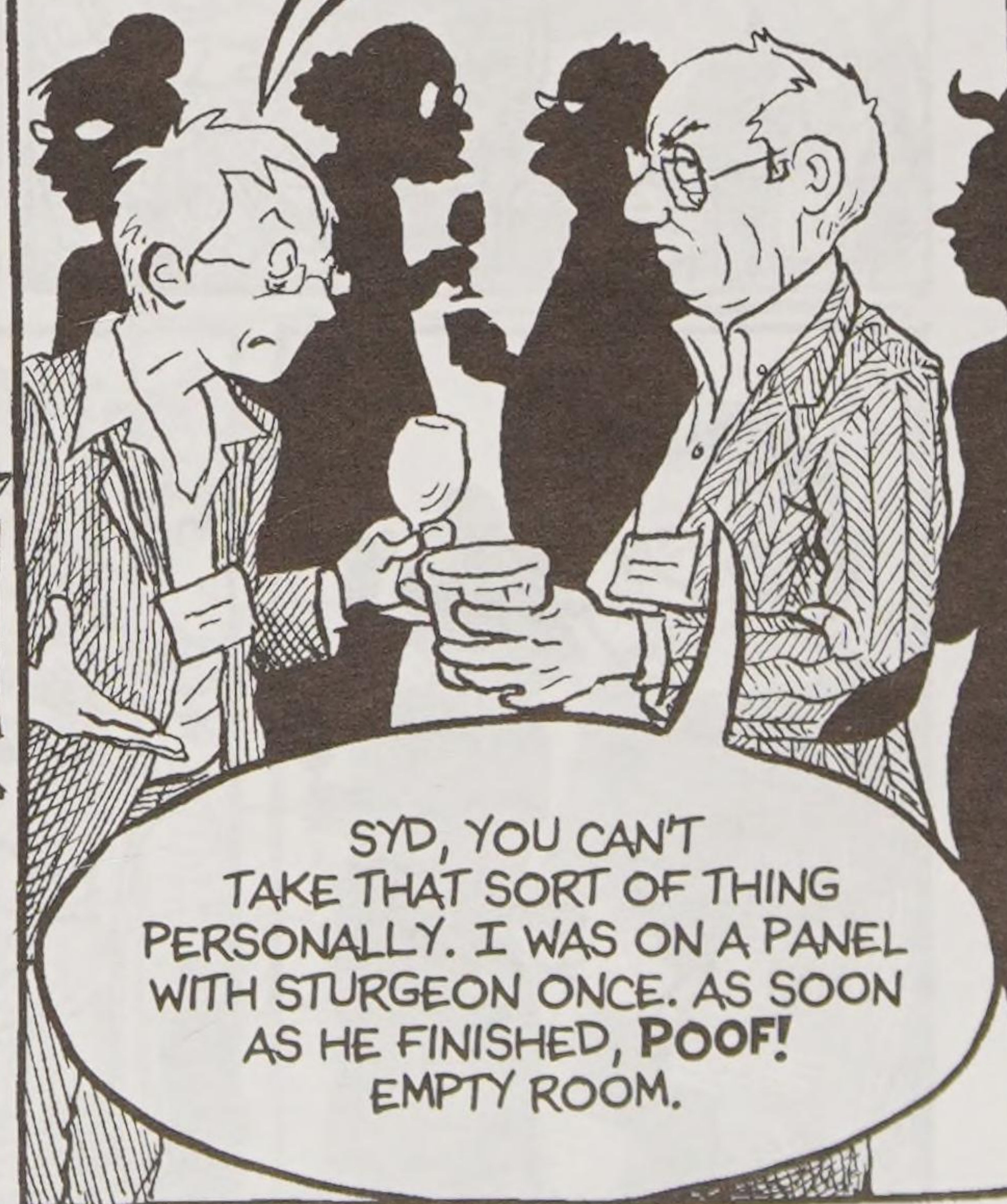
STIFF NECK?

YEAH.



MEANWHILE, AT THE THEORETICAL CRITIQUES OF CRITICAL THEORY CASH BAR...

IT WAS LIKE SOMEONE ANNOUNCED A CLEARANCE SALE AT THE OVERLY FASHIONABLE **EYEGLASS** BOUTIQUE! COMPLETE MASS EXODUS! THEY COULDN'T GET OUT OF THERE FAST ENOUGH!





H...MO, THAT'S AN ADMIRABLE
SENTIMENT, BUT I DON'T THINK
IT'S EXACTLY ON-MESSAGE.

WHAT.

ADAM
& STEVE:
TIL' DEATH
DO US
PART

DE-PRIVILEGE
ALL
COUPLED
RELATION-
SHIPS

YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU COULD
USE THIS.

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT STILL
FEELING BAD ABOUT THE
PANEL. YOUR PAPER WAS
EXCELLENT.

REALLY?

OH, PLEASE,
SYDNEY. YOU
KNOW IT WAS.

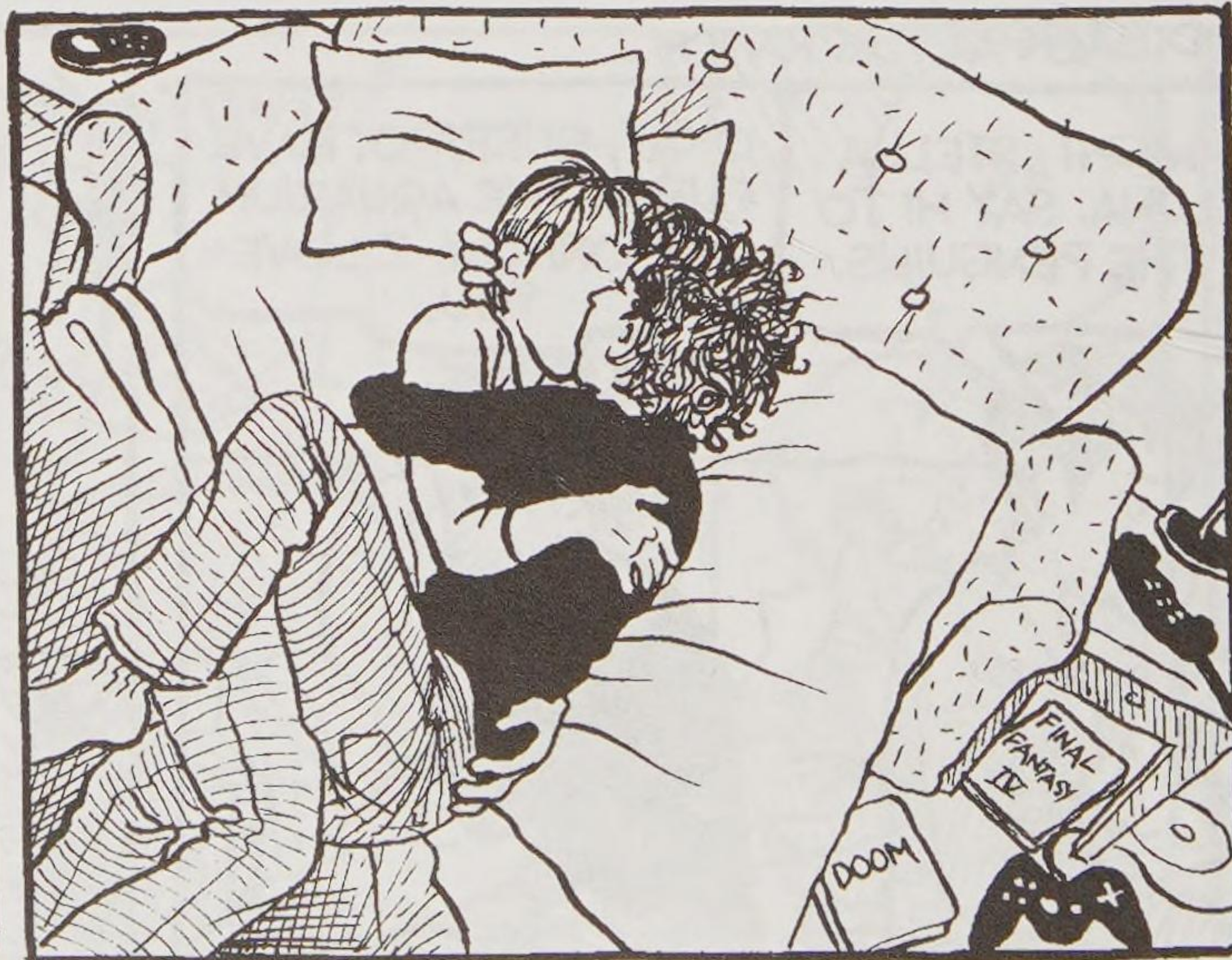
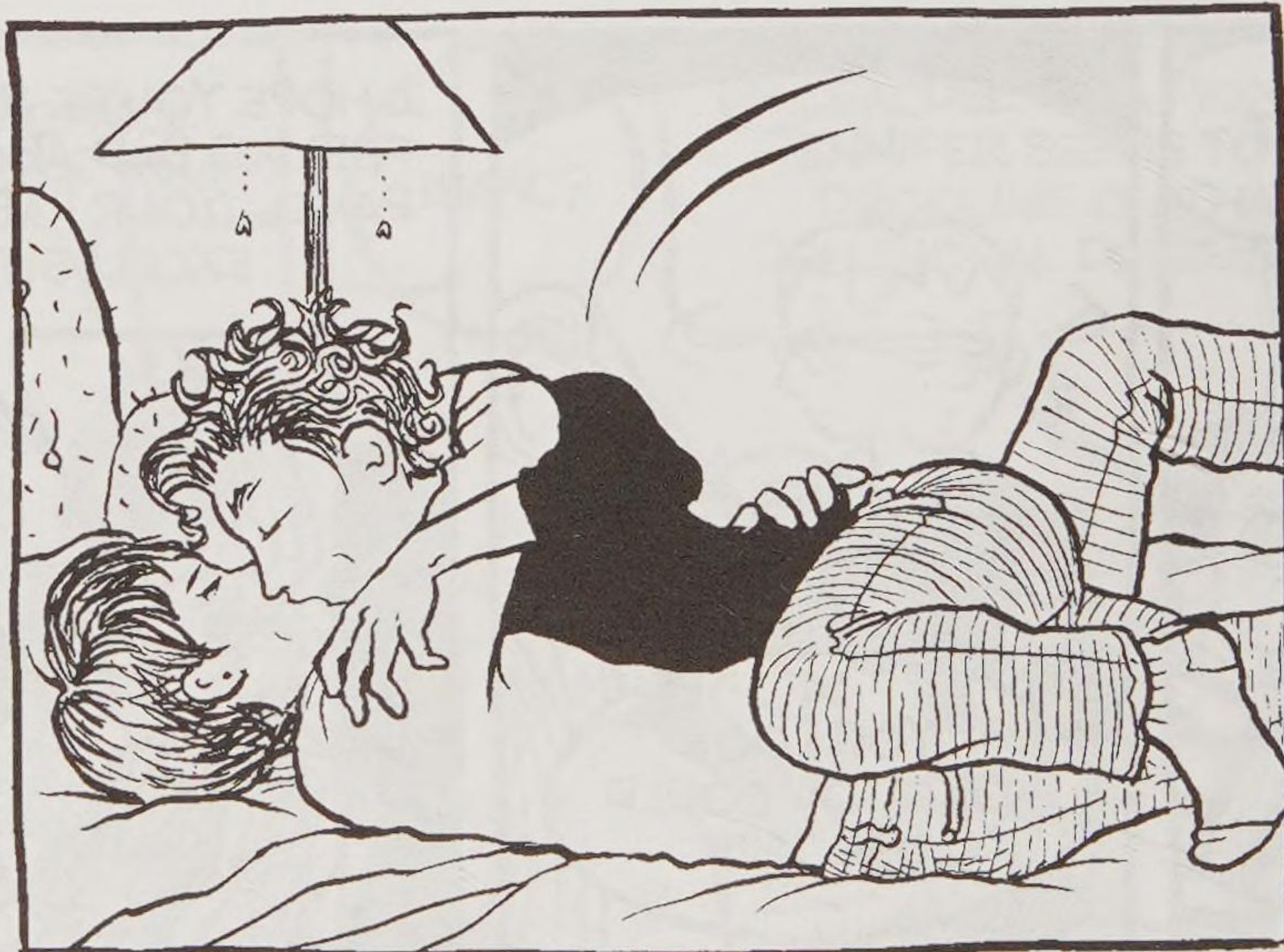
DO YOU WANT TO
GO SOMEWHERE
AND TALK?

MADDIE,
HI!

AND BACK AT THE RANCH...

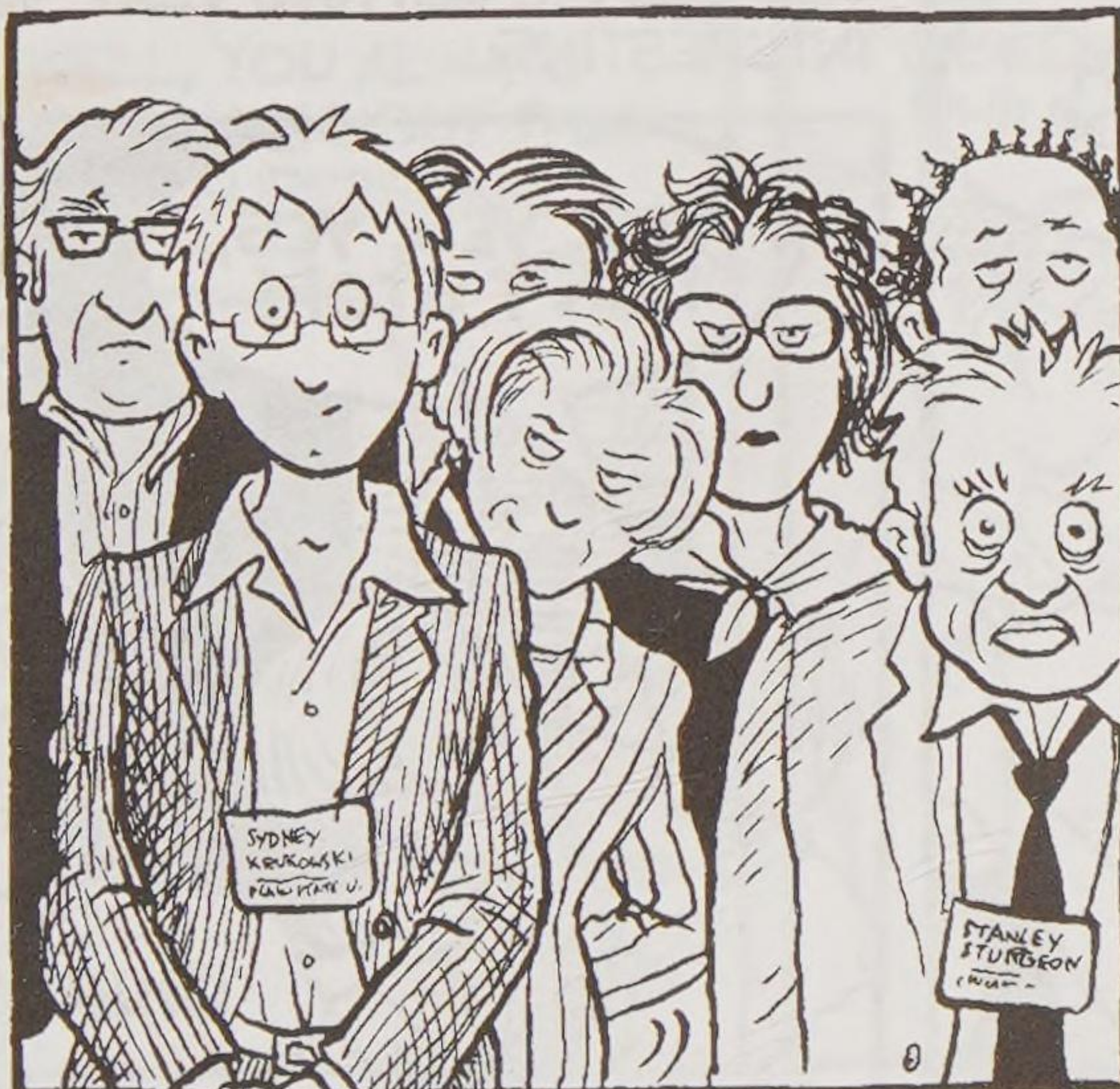
'NIGHT, STELLA
LUNA. SAY HI TO
THE PENGUINS.

OKAY, QUERIDO. HAVE
FUN AT THE AQUARIUM
TOMORROW. I LOVE
YOU.



SYDNEY'S MOOD IS ELEVATING.



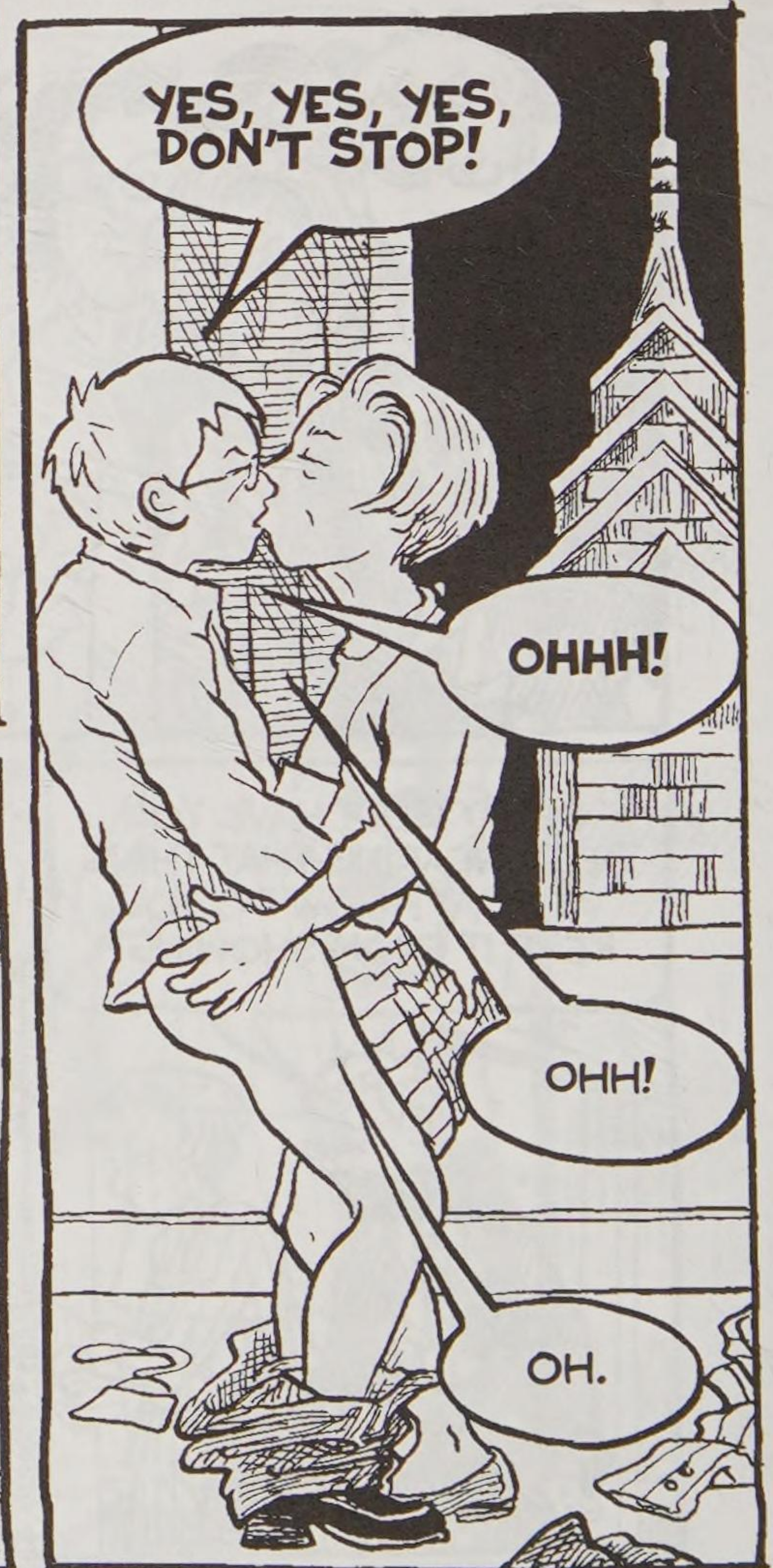


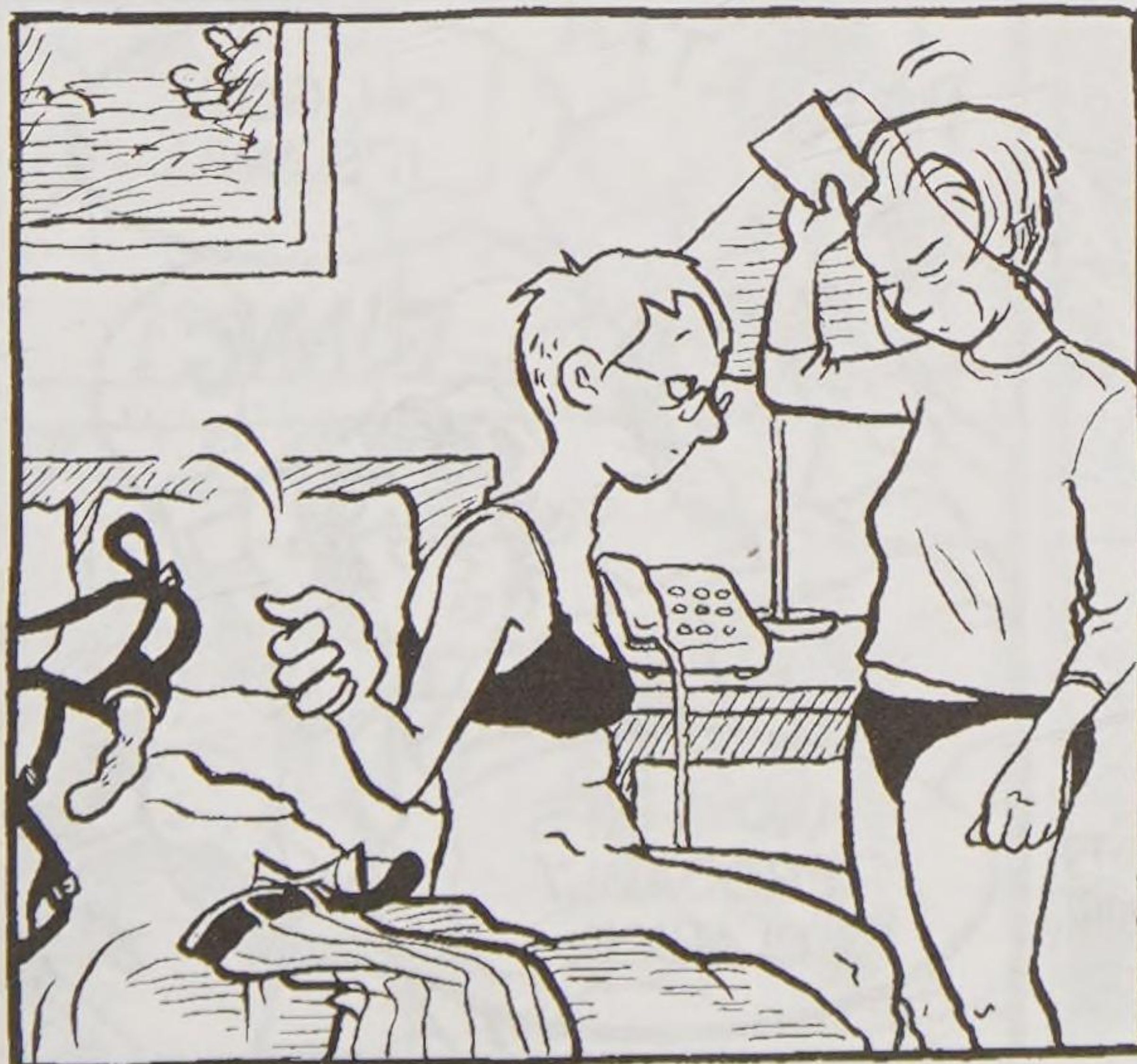
AND IN THE SUBURBS, THINGS ARE PROCEEDING APACE...





THE MLA IS GETTING VERY
INTERESTING...





MEANWHILE, DOWN THE HALL...



NEXT DAY, THE SUN RISES IMPERTURBABLY.





OR REVEREND THOMAS.
OR THAT NEW STATE REP
FROM WARD 5.



HELLO?

MEANWHILE, SOME CONFEREES ARE
MISSING THE 8:45 AM SESSION...



REMEMBER THE NAMES
WE USED TO HAVE FOR
OUR BREASTS?

THAT'S RIGHT!
YOURS WERE BOUVARD
AND PECUCHET.



AND MINE WERE
GILGAMESH AND
ENKIDU.

NO, THAT MUST HAVE
BEEN WITH **ANOTHER**
GRAD STUDENT.



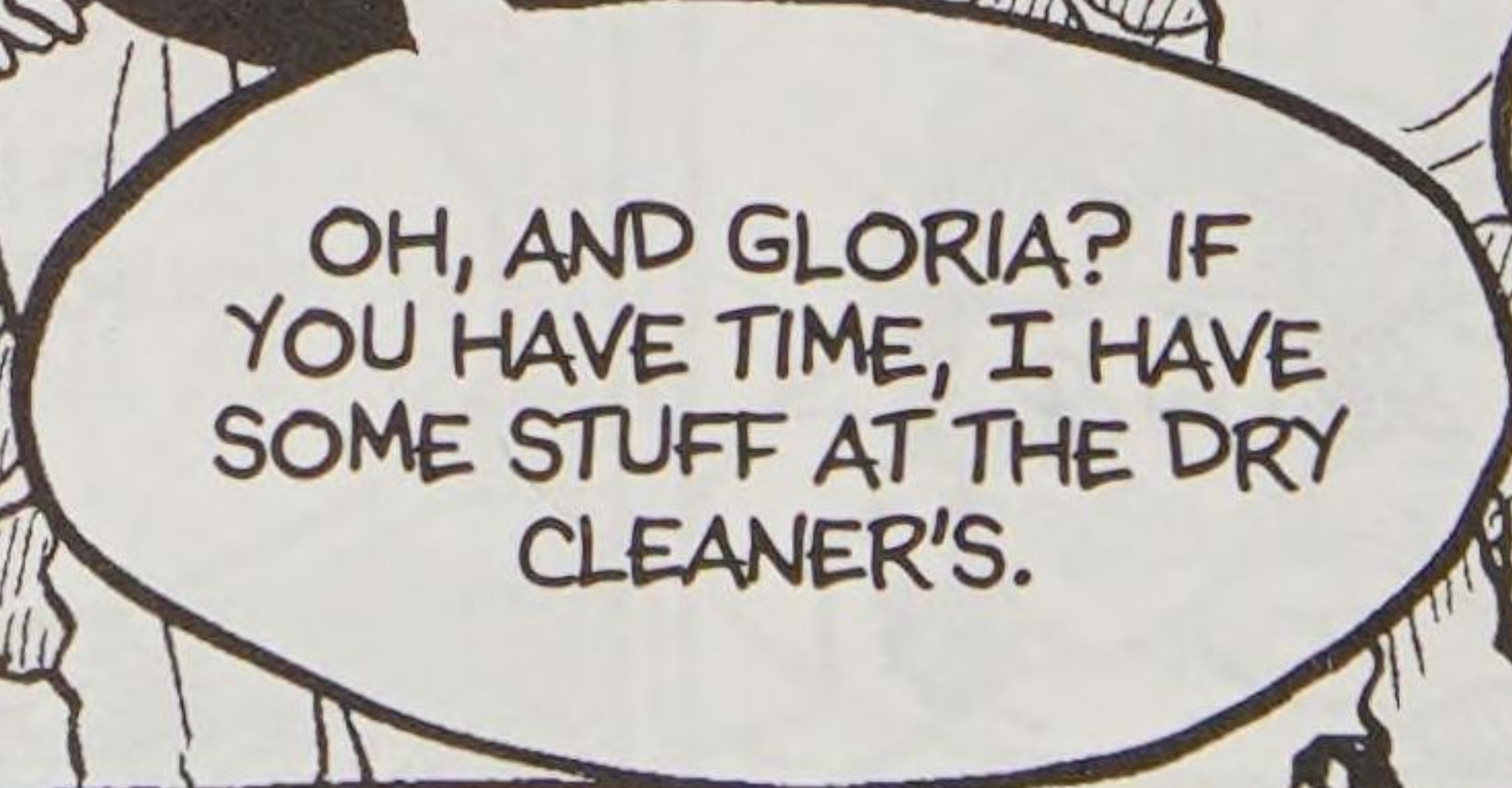
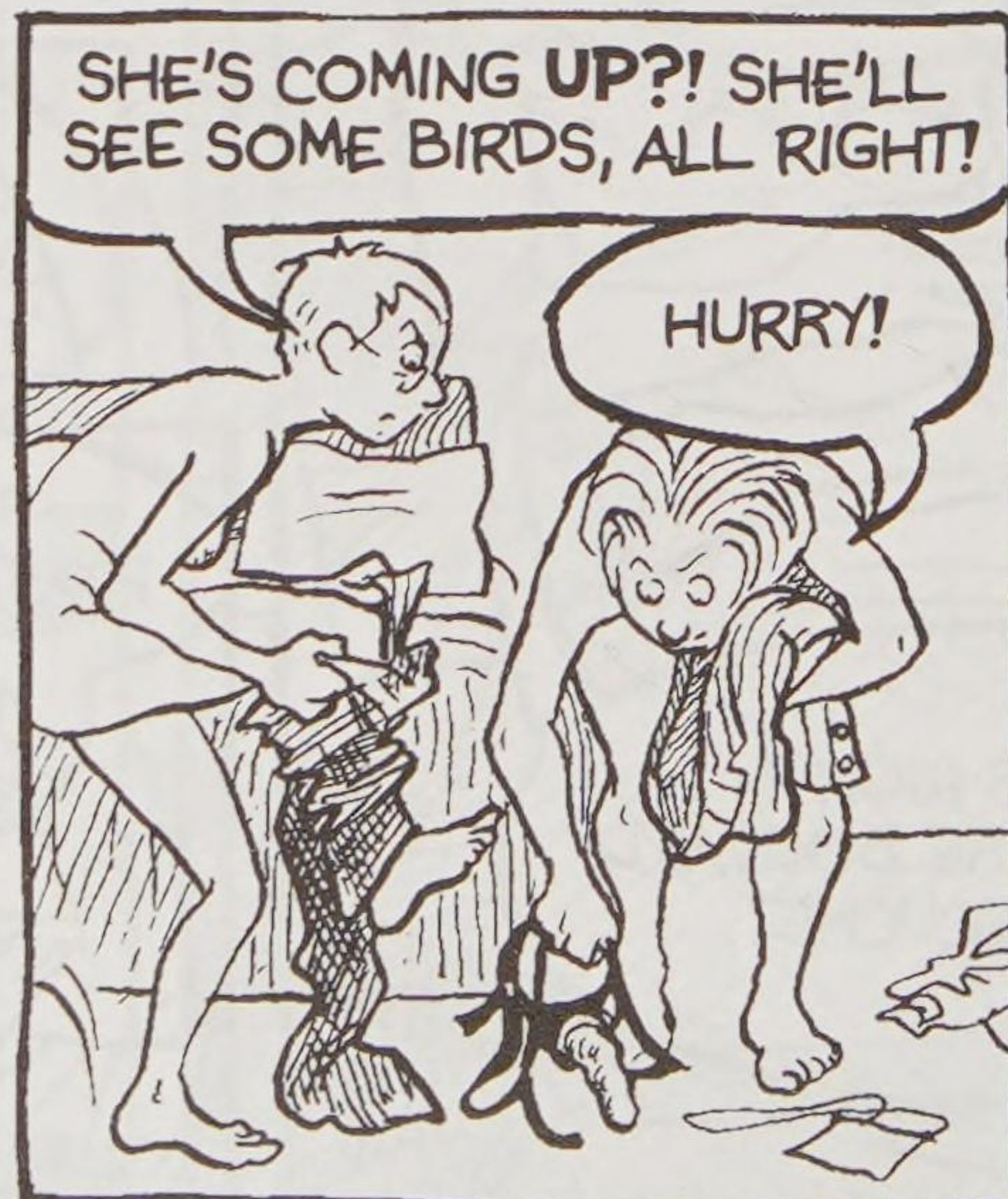
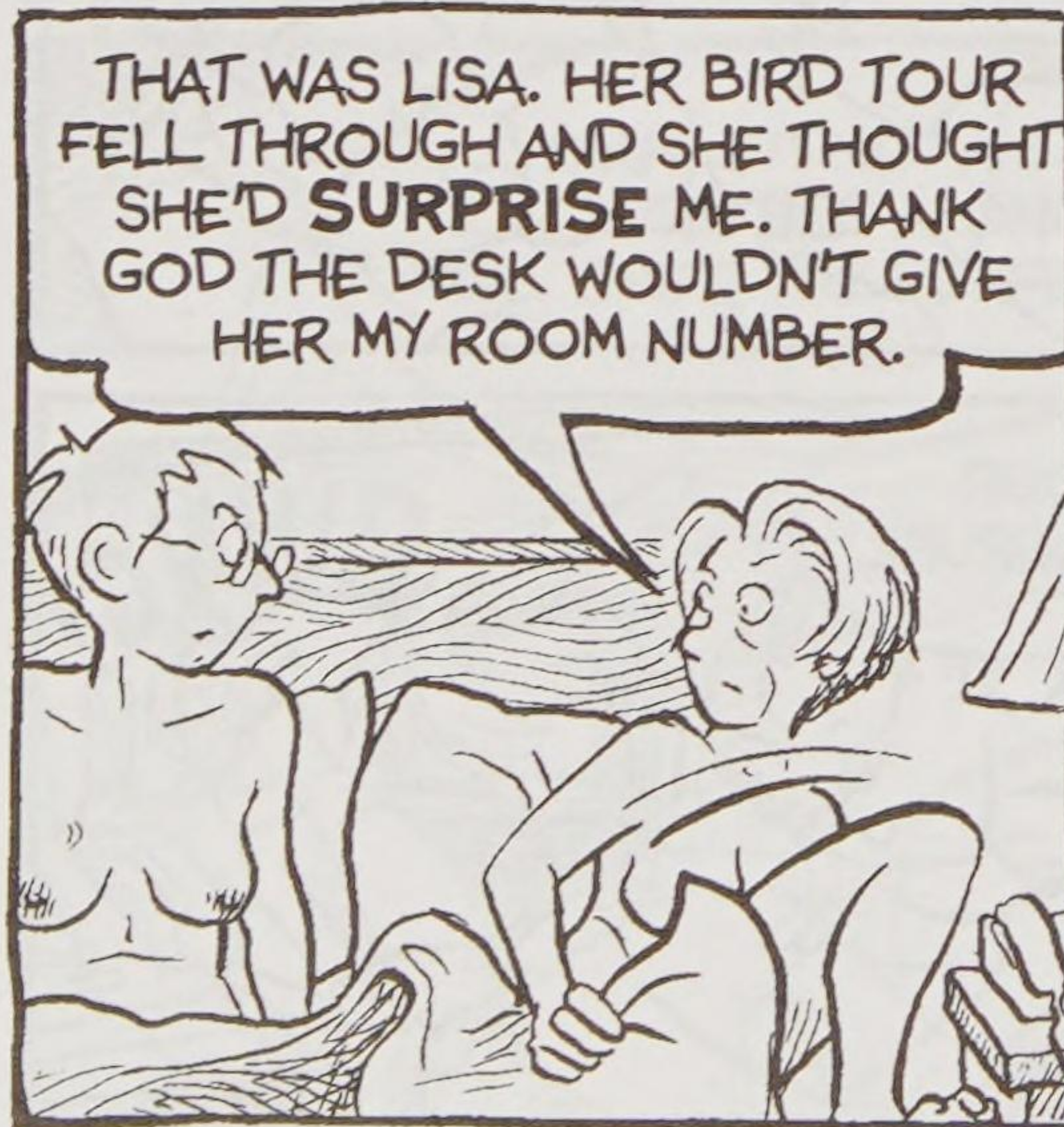
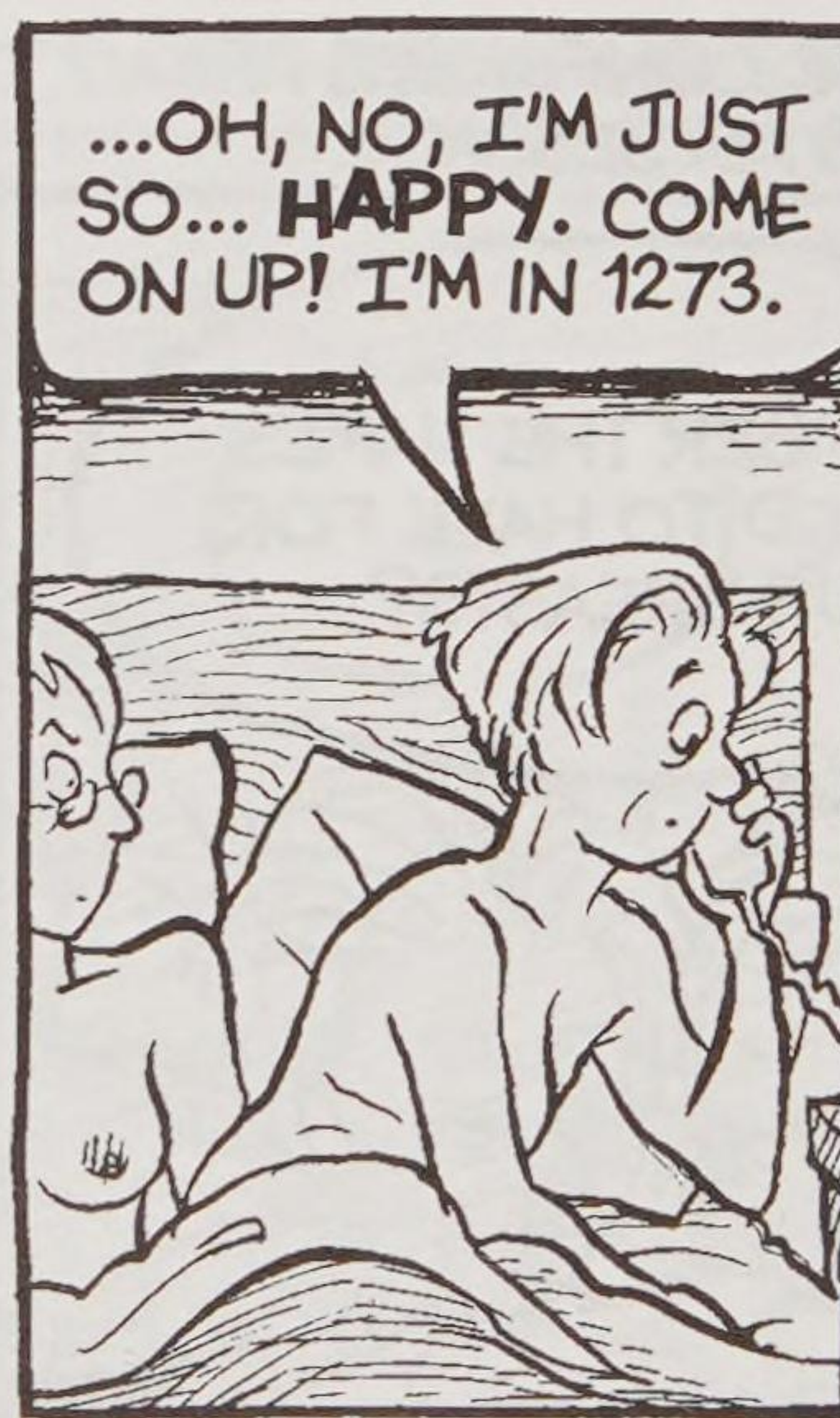
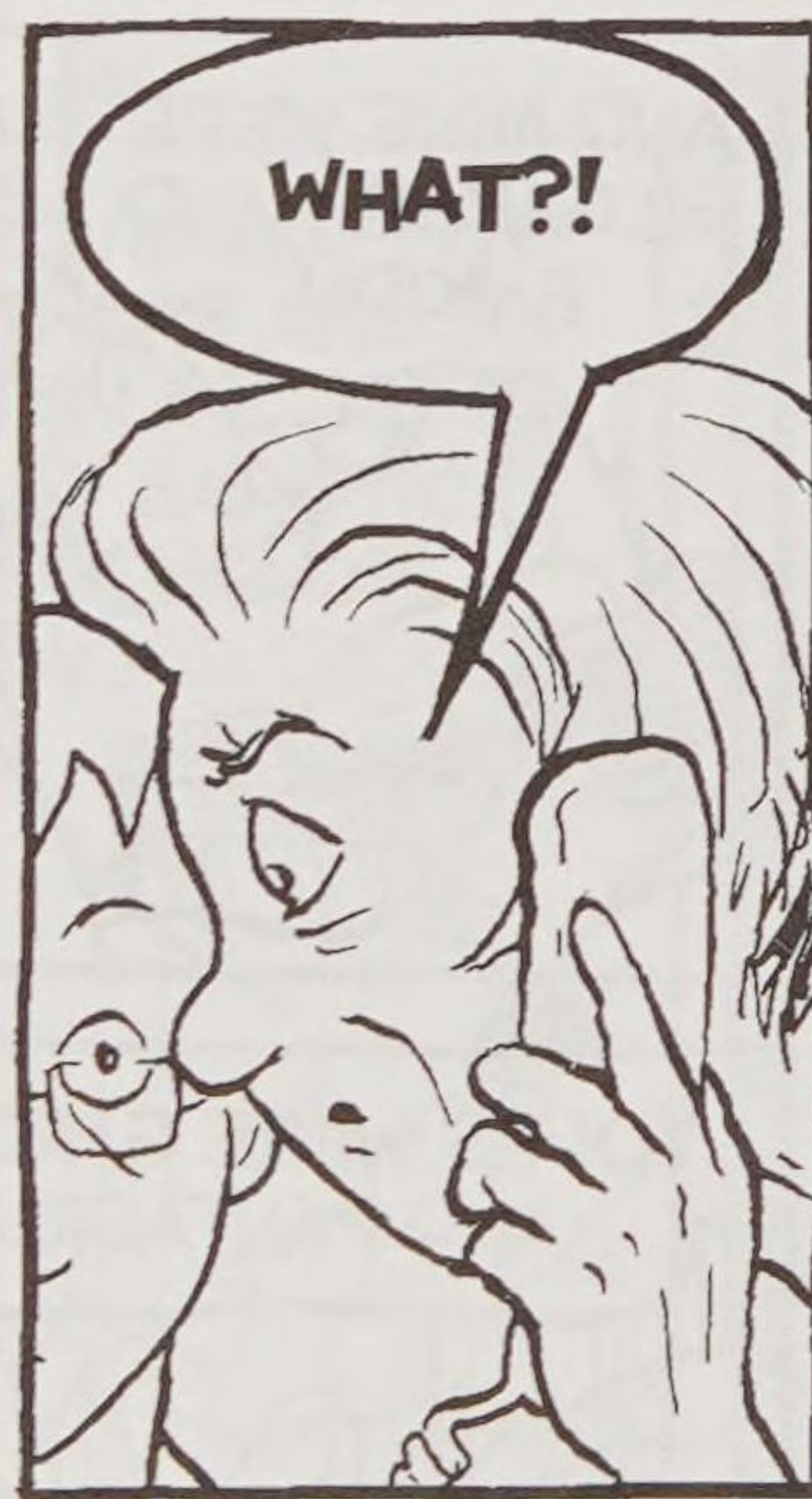
YOURS WERE GARGANTUA
AND PANTAGRUEL.

THAT'S
WHAT I
MEANT.



POOR
PANTAGRUEL.

RINGG!





I JUST STOPPED IN TO SEE IF YOU WANTED TO COME WITH ME TO "MOTIFS OF THE ERRANT SELF IN (NEO)MEDIEVAL ROMANCE" ...BUT IT APPEARS YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN.



ARE WE STILL ON FOR DINNER, OR WILL YOU BE OFF SEEKING THE GRAIL?



I'LL SEE YOU LATER.

WELL, I'D LOVE TO STAY AND READ YOUR BEADS, BUT I HAVE GRADUATE STUDENTS TO GRILL.



I'M SORRY, GINGER.



GOD, I'M HAVING A HOT FLASH.

GOOD.



HELLO?

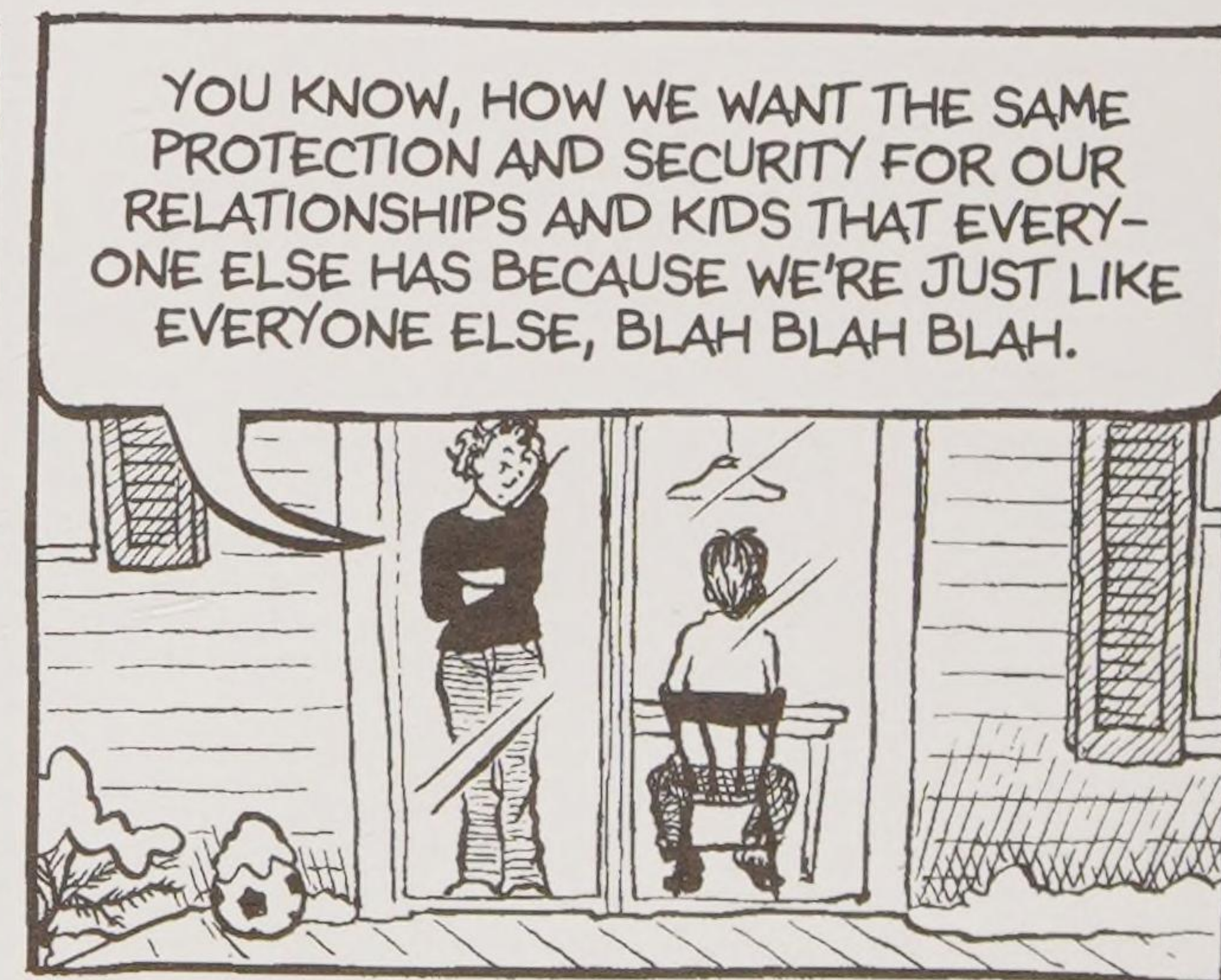


HI. I MISS YOU.

WHAT'S WRONG?

NOTHING! I MEAN, MY PANEL SUCKED. BUT I JUST WANTED TO SAY...YOU KNOW. THAT I LOVE YOU.





The End

"Rich, funny, deep, and impossible to put down."

—Publishers Weekly

There's definitely an invasion afoot in this latest installment in Alison Bechdel's award-winning *Dykes to Watch Out For* series, but just who's invading whom is unclear. Are Mo and her friends having an impact on the world or merely splattering on its windshield?

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